



Welcome. We are a group of
Friends **E**xploring **A**nd **S**haring **T**ogether,
and we are so pleased to welcome you to this Gifted Table.

Here, we each come as we are – there is no preaching, no pressure, just the warmth of welcome, the hope of honest connection, and the joy of being in community.

Each week we follow this simple rhythm, as we learn to listen deeply to each other, and to God

- **Friends** (5–10 mins): Welcome, and a simple icebreaker.
- **Exploring** (10–15 mins): Words or phrases that stand out.
- **And** (5–6 mins): Receiving the gift of wondering.
- **Sharing** (15–20 mins): Conversations, stories, and a possible creative task.
- **Together** (10 mins): Sending and singing.

Whether you have come on your own seeking answers, or because a friend invited you, know that there is a place set especially for you around this table.

We do hope to see you again, and that through **G**race,
Invitation, **F**aith, **T**ransformation, **E**ncounter, and **D**iscovery,
we will celebrate this season as **FEAST**.



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John 1:1-14 NRSV *The Word Became Flesh*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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**Week 4 – The gift of
Transformation**

**Denise Levertov (1923-1997)
On The Mystery Of The
Incarnation(1989)**

**It's when we face for a moment
the worst our kind can do, and
shudder to know
the taint in our own selves, that
awe
cracks the mind's shell and
enters the heart:
not to a flower, not to a dolphin,
to no innocent form
but to this creature vainly sure
it and no other is god-like, God
(out of compassion for our ugly
failure to evolve) entrusts,
as guest, as brother,
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Someday at Christmas men won't be
boys
Playing with bombs like kids play with
toys
One warm December our hearts will
see a world where men are free

Someday at Christmas there'll be no
wars
When we have learned what
Christmas is for
When we have found what life's really
worth there'll be peace on earth

Refrain:

Someday all our dreams will come to
be, someday in a world where men
are free
Maybe not in time for you and me
But someday at Christmastime

Someday at Christmas we'll see a land
With no hungry children, no empty
hand
One happy morning people will share
A world where people care

Whoa, someday at Christmas there'll
be no tears
When all men are equal and no man
has fears
One shining moment one prayer
away from our world today

Refrain:

Someday at Christmas man will not
fail
Hate will be gone and love will prevail
Someday a new world that we can
start with hope in every heart, yeah

whoa, yeah
Someday in a world where men are
free
Maybe not in time for you and me
But someday at Christmastime
Someday at Christmastime

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