



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 6 – The gift of Discovery

**Howard Washington Thurman
(1899-1981)
The Work Of Christmas (1948)**

**When the song of the angels is
stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are
home,
when the shepherds are back
with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:**

**to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the
people,
to make music in the heart**

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**I walked across an empty land
I knew the pathway like the
back of my hand
I felt the earth beneath my feet
Sat by the river and it made me
complete**

**Oh, simple thing, where have
you gone?
I'm getting old and I need
something to rely on
So tell me when,
You're gonna let in in
I'm getting tired and I need
somewhere to begin**

**I came across a fallen tree
I felt the branches of it looking
at me
Is this the place we used to
love?
Is this the place that I've been
dreaming of?**

**Oh, simple thing, where have
you gone?
I'm getting old and I need
something to rely on
So tell me when,
You're gonna let in in
I'm getting tired and I need
somewhere to begin**

**And if you have a minute why
don't we go
Talk about it somewhere only
we know?
This could be the end of
everything
So why don't we go somewhere
only we know?
Somewhere only we know**

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