

A PLACE AT THE

TABLE

FOR EVERYONE

**ADULT WORSHIP
RESOURCES**



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS

A PLACE AT THE

TABLE

FOR EVERYONE

Responsive Reading: Scarlette Jasper

Leader: All are welcome to the Lord's table.

Congregation: Thank you, Lord, for our place at your table.

Leader: All are invited to the Lord's banquet.

Congregation: Forgive us, Lord, when we have not welcomed everyone.

Leader: Lord, we are grateful for people like Scarlette Jasper, who helps everyone know that they are welcome. We are grateful for the many ways she bears witness to Christ by providing emergency shelter, emergency food, hygiene items, transportation, gas cards and by driving people to the doctor. We are grateful for her presence in Kentucky and how she walks with the community.

Congregation: Help us to remember, Lord, that we all walk this journey of life together.

Leader: May we, like Scarlette, not focus on what someone can do for us or what we can do for them, but instead focus on what we can do together.

Congregation: There is room for us all. Help us to invite others into our homes and our hearts.

Leader: Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see You in each person we meet.

Congregation: May we be bearers of light, hope and transformation in this world. Amen.



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Responsive Reading: Rick Burnette

Leader: All are welcome to the Lord's table.

Congregation: Thank you, Lord, for our place at your table.

Leader: All are invited to the Lord's banquet.

Congregation: Forgive us, Lord, when we have not welcomed everyone. Forgive us when we have forgotten the very people who help us have food on our own tables.

Leader: Lord, we are grateful for people like Rick Burnette, who work hard to address food insecurity. We are grateful for the ways in which he ensures that farm workers also have good, nutritious food.

Congregation: Forgive us when we give—not out of our abundance—but from our leftovers.

Leader: Help us, O Lord, to be more like Maria, who works hard to find the fruits and vegetables that Rick Burnette and Cultivate Abundance need for farm workers, while also still needing those things herself.

Congregation: Help us to work and share what we have so that we all can have enough.

Leader: It sometimes feels as if the inequality in our world is overwhelming. How is it possible that those who pick food in such abundance do not have enough themselves?

Congregation: Help us, O Lord, to open our eyes to injustice. Show us ways to share food and financial resources. Help us to choose the places where we buy things with care so that the people behind the scenes in those places can have enough.

Leader: All are equal at God's table. May our focus be on God's table and God's economy, where all are welcome and everyone has enough. Amen.



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Responsive Reading: Brooke and Mike

Leader: All are welcome to the Lord's table.

Congregation: Thank you, Lord, for our place at your table.

Leader: All are invited to the Lord's banquet.

Congregation: Forgive us, Lord, when we have not welcomed everyone.

Leader: Lord, we are grateful for people like Brooke and Mike who help all people feel welcome. We are grateful for their open doors and open hearts.

Congregation: Help us, Lord, to have open hearts as well.

Leader: Help us, O Lord, to see the similarities in strangers, instead of only the differences. Help us to see others as you see them.

Congregation: Help us, Lord, to see you in everyone we meet.

Leader: Help us to be generous, Lord, to those who have nothing to offer in return. Forgive us when we only help others who can help us in return.

Congregation: Help us to be present with those who need us and with all who are welcome to your table, O Lord.

All: Amen.



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A Place at the Table for Everyone Litany

Jesus noticed how the invited guests sought out the best seats at the table. So, he began to teach.

Invite! Everyone is important. Everyone is an honored guest. There is a place at the table for everyone. Because presence matters.

We do not know if Jesus himself was an honored guest at the dinner he attended. Yet he noticed all those invited were friends, rich neighbors or distinguished guests.

All are invited to the table. The poor, the crippled, the lame and blind. All those marginalized in our society by gender, education, occupation, sickness, disability, socio-economic status, race or religious affiliation. Invite! Because presence matters.

We do not know what was served at the table where Jesus was seated. We can imagine a table laden with plenty. We do know that, “Happy are those who will feast in God’s Kingdom.”

We experience God’s Kingdom here as we extend the invitation to everyone—a place at the table for everyone. Equally. With plenty. With lavish hospitality for all.

All: Invite! There is a place at the table for everyone. Because presence matters.



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Communion for “A Place at the Table”

Jesus sent his disciples, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.”

And here we are today at a table—a table prepared and ready. A banquet! A feast! A celebration! You are invited! You are invited to join with all those here at this table.

(Take the bread)

Jesus then gave thanks and said to those present, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Jesus invites us to the table to do this in remembrance of him.

(Take the cup)

Then Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Here today, all have had a place at the table. Let us take a moment to think of those who are not invited to other tables. (Silence)

Take a moment and reflect on what it means to you to have a place at this table. (Silence)

Amen.



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