

Easter SunSET Feast

Convergence 2018

Arrival:

As people arrive they are greeted and invited to find a seat and begin making themselves at home by digging into the beautiful fruit, bread, cheese and wine on the table. Table hosts are present to introduce themselves and those sitting at the table to one another as well as answer questions about the evening.

Welcome:

We welcome you here on this most holy of days for us as a community of faith. This is the day we celebrate the recognition that the God of creation is also the God of re-creation, of newness, of new life, of new love, of second chances, of forgiveness of reconciliation, of hope. No small things in our world. Easter is a special time for Christians, celebrating that not even death has the final say in our lives and that Jesus is indeed who he said he was.

Fasting and Feasting. The Bible has all this really sensual imagery. Taste and See. How is a feast symbolic of God's love for you? How does abundance and flavor and texture evoke resurrection/new life? How does feasting with others old friends and new evoke communion? What hope? What beauty has God placed in your life? Thank you for being with us today.

Reading:

As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Gerard Manley Hopkins

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;
As tumbled over rim in roundy wells
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bell's
Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;
Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;
Selves — goes itself; *myself* it speaks and spells,
Crying *What I do is me: for that I came.*

I say more: the just man justices;
Keeps grace: that keeps all his goings graces;
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is —
Christ — for Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces.

Composite Poetry Exercise

Opening Blessing

*The Bible is full of stories about meals, feasts and banquets; of people eating together and of God preparing food for his people. In the New Testament, Jesus is constantly eating! He eats with his followers, his friends and family. He shares meals with crowds and outcasts. In fact, he seems to accept **any** invitation to a meal! When we sit down together at the table with our neighbors and dig into one another's lives; sharing stories about the way God is at work in us, committing ourselves once again to loving one another the way Jesus has taught us to love; that*

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is also a holy act. In that context a meal becomes holy worship. Tonight we worship through good food and good company - all are welcome at this table!

Creator God, receive us in this evening hour as we offer ourselves to you in body, soul and spirit to be remade every day in your image. We thank for the blessings of this day and for these friends who have fed us so well – body and soul. We thank you for this food which reminds us of your care for us and pray that it will strengthen us for the doing of your will in the week to come. Amen.

Invitation to the Feast

Tables are invited to serve themselves and begin eating the main meal.

Invitation to seconds and invite back for sharing

Invite two people from each table to share with the larger group how they ended up here tonight and the results of their group composite poetry.

Benediction:

May God's hope and God's peace live in you and shine through you in beauty wherever you go!