WE MEET AS FRIENDS AT TABLE

Words: Brian Wren
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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Holy One be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to the One who guides our life together.
It is our joy to offer gratitude and praise.

God,
you never promised us that way would be clear.
You have, however, created us in your image -
the image of One who is Wisdom,
who is Love,
who is Courage.
You breathed your life into us
with the assurance that we have,
within and around us,
everything we need to be your faithful people.
Though we sometimes act in disregard
for your call on our collective life,
still you show up with and for us,
relentlessly.

And so,
we join with all the saints who have gone before
in gratitude for your abiding presence:

Please be seated.
Sacred is your presence
and blessed is Christ with us.
Through the life of Jesus
we saw an example of what it means
to navigate an uncertain path,
practice creative ministry,
and face with courage and compassion
all the barriers that work against your Spirit on the move.

Jesus lived and breathed a ministry
rooted in your Love for all people.
He prioritized the lives of those who are suffering
and showed us what it looks like
to be with and for one another,
even under great distress.
Though evil attempted to silence his proclamation
of an all inclusive Kindom of God,
not even death could keep Love from growing.

On the night in which he was arrested,
he gathered among friends for a meal.
He took bread,
gave thanks to you,
broke the bread,
and shared it with his disciples saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over,
he took the cup,
gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is the cup of the new covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of Christ with us,
and in the assurance of your Love persistent,
we offer our lives,
our ministries,
and our church
in the service of your healing work
as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Pour out your Spirit
on this community and these gifts.
Make them a taste of your Kindom
through Christ with us,
that we might leave the Table
both nourished by your Love
and still hungry for justice for all your people.

By your Spirit,
pour us out into the world,
one people united by your love and committed
to your mission.
Let our lives sing your praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of the world,
to the glory of your name.

Words: International Consultation on English Texts
Music: Richard W. Hillert
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