

## **Invitation to the Table**

He was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus,  
Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna,  
he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy  
where he pled the case of the poor,  
he was always the guest.

**Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming sinners and strangers, he was always the guest.**

But here, at this table, he is our host.

**So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith,  
for a better life, for a fairer world.**

**Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables,  
now invites us to be a guest at his.**

This is the table, not of May Memorial church, but of the Lord.

And our Lord says “come to me all who are weary and who are carrying heavy burdens.”

**So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,**  
you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long  
time,

**you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.**

Come, not because it is I who invite you: it is our Lord. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

**What we do here, we do  
in imitation of what Christ first did.**

**On the night on which he was betrayed;  
and as they were sitting at a meal,  
Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it.  
He gave it to the disciples saying,  
“This is my body broken for you.  
do this in remembrance of me.”**

**Later, after they had eaten,  
he took a cup of wine and he said,  
“This cup is the new relationship with God  
made possible because of my death.  
Drink this all of you, and remember me.”**

**So now we do as Jesus did.**