

Tuesdays Table

What do you understand when you hear, “This is the Lord’s Table and we don’t set the guest list”?

The purpose of this resource is to help guide your engagement of the “Tuesdays at the Table” conversation. This is merely a frame for the conversation you’ll have or the raw materials to shape a conversation unique for the table you’re sitting at.

As you participate in the conversation...

- **Keep an open mind.**
- **Stay curious.**
- **Look for new ideas.**
- **Speak from your heart.**
- **Respect the ideas of others.**

Access a video of the “What do you understand when you hear, ‘This is the Lord’s Table and we don’t set the guest list?’” conversation [here](#).

QUOTE

“The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.”

POPE FRANCIS

Let us pray.

You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. —
Psalm 23:5

Guiding questions.

- What does it mean to refer to the altar as “the Lord’s Table”?
- What does it mean for the Lord’s Table to be “open”?
- John Wesley referred to Communion as a converting ordinance. What was trying to reveal about Communion?
- How is Eucharist a “medicine for the weak”?
- This sacrament is referred to by many names – Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper, Eucharist, the Last Supper, The Great Thanksgiving to name a few. What name best illustrates your understanding of this sacrament?
- How can sharing Holy Communion help bridge the chasms created by our differences?
- How has your faith community adjusted to participate in Communion during the pandemic?

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Take action.

- The El Salvadoran priest, Rutilio Grande, said, “All life is Eucharist.” As a group, explore the life and ministry of this Jesuit priest and martyr. Consider ways you can offer love and assistance to the poor in his honor during this Advent season.
- A service similar to The Great Thanksgiving is the Love Feast which is often celebrated during Christmas. Work with your pastor to plan a virtual or in-person Love Feast, to offer thanks for one another and celebrate Christian community.
- Discuss with your pastor or worship committee how you might participate in the administration of Holy Communion, including gathering the elements (if appropriate, consider baking the bread), preparing the altar, and clearing the elements after the service.

Resources.

“Come, Sinners, To The Gospel Feast” by Charles Wesley, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #339

This Holy Mystery by Gayle Carlton Felton

“The Joy of the Gospel” by Pope Francis

[“The Meaning of Holy Communion”](#) by E. Byron Anderson and Discipleship Ministries

[“What is World Communion Sunday?”](#) by United Methodist Communications

“World Communion Sunday”, *The Book of Discipline*, ¶¶ 263.3, 824.4