

Setting the Table – A Thanksgiving Service

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After the Opening portions of the service, we share in a Responsive Reading, choreographed with the actual setting of a table in the Chancel.

This has become a much-loved tradition of the children and their families. We often hear stories of how children “practice all week carrying the bread,” or “invite their Lutheran cousins to church this Sunday to watch.” It means a great deal to the children to be a part of creating the Sacred. (This is the Sunday that we distribute Guest At Your Table Boxes.)

Responsive Reading: As each portion of the reading is spoken, a child carries forth, to the Chancel, the item(s) mentioned. I invite 4 year olds through high schoolers to participate. Many people have reported that they take this reading home and share it with family and friends around their Thanksgiving tables. Please feel free to share it freely, but give credit.

“SETTING THE TABLE”

Why do we have a table here?

We have a table here because we believe in community, in what we have to give to and receive from one another. We are created to be fed in relationship and the table is our symbol.

Why do we have a cloth on the table?

We have a cloth on the table because each life is interwoven with every other life. The cloth is our symbol of the love, which binds us, upholds, us, and covers us.

Why do we have a candle on the table?

We have a candle on the table because we believe in the light of our flaming chalice: the Light of Faith, Hope, Love, and Truth.

Why do we have flowers on the table?

We have flowers on the table so that we remember to see the mystery and beauty of creating which continually surrounds us. Flowers are our symbol of the Grace, which springs up into our lives.

Why do we have bread and wine on the table?

We have bread and wine on the table as gifts of the earth. They speak of the power of growing things; they ask us to wait for the ripening and harvest. Bread and wine are our symbols of trust and fruitfulness.

Why do we have an empty box on the table?

The empty box is to remind us to welcome unseen guests at our table – brothers and sisters who share this earth and this life. The empty box reminds us to give from our fullness to those who have need so that we may all know justice and peace.

The table is set.

WE CELEBRATE WITH THANKSGIVING!