

February 3, 2021

# THE TABLE

## He is Everything To Me

In the stars His handiwork I see,  
On the wind He speaks with  
majesty,  
Though He ruleth over land and  
sea,  
What is that to me?  
I will celebrate Nativity,  
For it has a place in history,  
Sure, He came to set His people  
free,  
What is that to me?

Til' by faith I met Him face-to-  
face,  
And I felt the wonder of His grace,  
Then I knew that He was more  
than just a  
God who didn't care,  
That lived a way out there and

Now He walks beside me day by  
day,  
Ever watching o'er me lest I stray,  
Helping me to find that narrow  
way,  
He's Everything to me.

## Let's Change the World

I don't think this world might  
change for us

but in the process we may better  
ourselves,

let's change the world.

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We want to change the world  
Let's change the world.

## Table Questions

*Each person may choose a question to answer. If you have extra time, choose another.  
Try to share your response in about 3 minutes.*

1. Who or what have you seen serve as an instrument of healing?
2. What part of our world causes you to shake your fists, get angry, and say "there has got to be a better way"? Can you be a part of the healing in that area?
3. For kids: What does it mean to help make something "get better"? Can you tell me how someone has helped you get better?

*This week, look notice the simple things. See them with new eyes. Say out loud, "Tree, you are sacred;" "Child's laughter, you are sacred;" "One who cuts me off while texting, you are sacred."*

## Our Mission.

We  
Love God. Love People. Walk together in the Way of Jesus.

February 17, 2021

# THE TABLE

## **We are Stardust**

*a group reading*

Group 1: In the beginning, the energy of silence rested over an infinite horizon of pure nothingness.

Group 2: The silence lasted for billions of years, stretching across eons that the human mind cannot even remotely comprehend.

Groups 3: Out of the silence God cast the first ripples of sound, vibrations of pure energy that ruptured the tranquil stillness as a single point of raw potential, bearing all matter, all dimension, all energy, and all time: exploding like a massive fireball.

All: It was the greatest explosion of all time!

Group 1: An eruption of infinite energy danced into being. It had a wild and joyful freedom about it, and like a dance it was richly endowed with coherence, elegance, and creativity.

Group 2: The universe continued to expand and cool until the first atoms came into being. The force of gravity joined the cosmic dance; atoms clustered into primordial galaxies.

Group 3: Giant clouds of hydrogen and helium gases gathered into condensed masses, giving birth to stars!

Group 1: Generations of stars were born and died, born and died, and then our own star system, the solar system, was formed from a huge cloud of interstellar dust, enriched by the gifts of all those ancestral stars.

Group 2: Planet Earth condensed out of a cloud that was rich in a diversity of elements. Each atom of carbon, oxygen, silicon, calcium, and sodium had been given during the explosive death of ancient stars. These elements, this stuff of stars, included all the chemical elements necessary for the evolution of carbon-based life.

Group 3: With the appearance of the first bacteria, the cosmic dance reached a more complex level of integration.

Group 1: Molecules clustered together to form living cells!

Group 2: Later came the algae, and then fishes began to inhabit the waters!

Group 3: Thence the journey of life on land and in the sky. Insects, amphibians, birds, reptiles, and mammals: all flourished and diversified and elaborated the themes of life. And now it is our time, too.

All: This is our story.

Group 1: The story of our beginning, our cosmology.

Group 2: Humans were invited to care for the earth...

Group 3: But often we tried to conquer and subdue it.

All: The burden is ours to own and bear.

Group 1: The story of our beginning, our cosmology.

Group 2: Humans were invited to care for the earth...

Group 3: But often we tried to conquer and subdue it.

All: The burden is ours to own and bear.

Group 1: And so we will begin our Lenten Journey this Ash Wednesday.

Group 2: with an open heart asking the Creator

Group 3: to show us how to take the daily things of life and see them as sacred.

Group 1: May God guide us as we perform simple acts of love and prayer,

Group 2: and real works of reform and renewal.

Group 3: Let us love deeply the earth which gives us air to breathe, water to drink, and food to sustain us.

Group 1: May we remember that life is begotten from stardust, radiant in light and heat.

Group 2: We are all one—all of creation, all that now live, all that have ever lived.

Group 3: Remember we are stardust, and to stardust we return.

Group 1: Remember we are connected and to connection we return.

Group 2: Remember we are part of the great Divine mystery.

All: Remember we are stardust and to stardust we return.

### **A Group Response:**

Leader: The season of Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

Group: Lent calls us to the cutting edge, when the wheat falls to the ground and new life comes forth.

Leader: Lent not only calls us to give up something, but also invites us to participate in the mystery of God-with-us.

Group: By your grace, call us from grief into gladness, despair into hope, estrangement into right relations with each other and with the earth.