**Setting a Table in the Wilderness**

**A College for Bishops Salon**

**August 27, 2020**

A Reading from John 1:1-5

An Invitation

Come, all you who thirst,

all you who hunger for the bread of life,

all you whose souls cry out for healing;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all you who are weary,

all you who are bowed down with worry,

all you who ache with the tiredness of living;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all you poor,

all you are without food or refuge,

all you who go hungry in a fat land;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all you who are bitter,

all you whose hopes have tarnished into cynicism,

all you who feel betrayed and cannot forgive;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all who grieve,

all you who suffer loss as a fresh knife wound,

all you who curse the God you love;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all you who are sinners,

all you who have sold the gift that is within you,

all you who toss uneasily in your bed at night;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all you who are oppressed,

all you who have forgotten the meaning of freedom,

all you whose cries cut to the very heart of God;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all you who are traitors,

all you who use your wealth and power to crucify God,

all you who cannot help yourselves;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come, all you who are sick,

all you whose bodies have failed you,

all you who long above all for healing;

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

Come all you who are lost,

all you who search for meaning but cannot find it,

all you who have no place of belonging.

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

The table of Jesus is your place of gathering.

Here you are welcomed, wanted, loved.

Here is a place set for you.

***Come, come to the feast of life.***

## Mike Riddell, published in “Bread and Wine, Beer and Pies”

## in Ward, Pete, *Mass Culture: The Interface of Eucharist and Mission,*

## Abingdon, The Bible Reading Fellowship, 2008,

Unmuted, offer prayers of petition and thanksgiving silently or aloud

Closing Collect – A New Zealand Prayer Book, He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, pg. 465