

**A Liturgy for Feasting with Friends** (Douglas McKelvey, edited)

Leader: To gather joyfully is indeed a serious affair, for feasting and all enjoyments gratefully taken are, at their heart, acts of war.

**People: In celebrating our Thanksgiving Table, we declare that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow and tears, will not have the final word.**

Leader: But the joy of fellowship, and the welcome and comfort of friends new and old, and the celebration of these blessings of food and drink and conversation and laughter are the true evidence of things eternal, and are the first fruits of that great glad joy that will be unending.

**People: So let our gratitude on that day be joined to those sure victories secured by Christ. Let it be to us a delight and a glad foretaste of the marriage supper of the lamb to come.**

Leader: May our shared meal, and our pleasure in it, bear witness against the artifice and deceptions of the prince of the darkness that would blind this world to hope. May our Table fall like a great hammer blow against that brittle night, shattering the gloom, reawakening our hearts, stirring our imaginations.

**People: Focusing our vision on the kingdom of heaven that is to come. On the kingdom that is promised. On the kingdom that is already, indeed, among us.**

Leader: For the resurrection of all good things has already joyfully begun through the abiding presence of Jesus whose love has ransomed us to glory.

**People: He is seated among us both as our host and as our honored guest, and still yet as our conquering King. Amen.**