

The Banquet Table

An Interpretive Reading for Youth

from a poem by Michele Perry

Note: This reading can be done for the congregation in worship or simply among the youth as an interpretive exercise. It can be done with or without pantomime, but it would be more effective with pantomime (or dance, if your youth tend toward that kind of interpretation). If you choose to use pantomime, you can decide to use as many players as you like, or as many as you have. You could ask your players to dress up according to the roles they play, or you could ask them all to wear the same color. They might enjoy setting up a banquet table and festooning it with place settings, confetti and flowers. Brainstorm with them and get them to come up with interpretive actions for each reading. Some of them could dress in fancy clothing, and some in rags. Or the same group could play both the original guests and the substitute guests. Encourage them to be creative.

FIRST READER: A certain Man was preparing a great feast.

SECOND READER: He invited the many to come and eat, to come and eat and drink His cup to be...

THIRD READER: At the banquet table of Love,

At the feast of Forgiveness

Where Mercy serves and Truth lives and Hope is found.

At the meal of Righteousness,

Grace abounds.

FIRST READER: The servants called the many to come and eat.

SECOND READER: Excuses were made.

FOURTH READER: One had a new field.

FIFTH READER: One had a new wife.

SIXTH READER: All too busy to come and be His guests...

THIRD READER: At the banquet table of Love,

At the feast of Forgiveness

Where Mercy serves and Truth lives and Hope is found.

At the meal of Righteousness,

Grace abounds.

FIRST READER: The Master said,

“Since they did not come when I called,

SECOND READER: Go and gather the

poor and lame, the broken and shamed

FOURTH READER: to come and eat and

they will be guests...”

THIRD READER: At the banquet table of Love,

At the feast of Forgiveness

Where Mercy serves and Truth lives and

Hope is found.

At the meal of Righteousness,

Grace abounds.

ALL READERS: Yes, at the meal of

Righteousness,

Grace abounds.

This reading was adapted from a poem by Michele Perry. Michele— a native of Orange Park, Florida—has done everything from serving at an orphanage in Bangladesh to working with children at a camp on Cape Cod to teaching backyard Bible clubs in US inner cities. From Sacred Seasons, Hunger Emphasis 2001, “God’s Banquet.”