

## Journeying With Ruth And Naomi

*I love the story of Ruth and Naomi. Maybe it is because here we have a story of two women who have courage in determining the direction their life will follow. And a man, Boaz, who recognises their courage, and within the confines of his own society, enables them to fulfil their dream of a new life. The story ends with the sharing of community and of food. Are we ready to be so generous in the sharing of our community and our table?*

We're so used to doing things our own way  
We know what we believe  
We know who we trust  
We know which hymns we sing  
We know how prayers are prayed  
We know how Communion is served  
We know what mission we are involved in  
So ingrained, that we assume our way is right.

Yet here is Ruth travelling to a strange land  
Challenging us to rethink our beliefs  
Challenging us to be dependent on another  
Challenging us to learn new songs  
Challenging us to experience prayer in different ways  
Challenging us to break bread with a new people  
Challenging us to reach out with God's love  
And we are afraid to risk the journey.

Yet here is Naomi encouraging Ruth to find a new home  
Encouraging us to embrace the stranger  
Encouraging us to care for one another  
Encouraging us to rewrite our songs  
Encouraging us to believe prayers are answered  
Encouraging us to share bread beyond our borders  
Encouraging us to extend community beyond convention  
And we are afraid our identity might be lost.

Yet here is Boaz protecting Ruth and Naomi  
Ensuring the doors are thrown open in welcome  
Ensuring charity is extended to embrace justice  
Ensuring the singing of a new song  
Ensuring prayer changes our thinking and our actions  
Ensuring our communion is open and inclusive  
Ensuring we cannot become complacent  
And we are afraid to take such a risk.

Yet here is Christ, welcoming us all to his table  
Inviting us to meet him and one another  
Inviting us to trust in him and in each other  
Inviting us to sing a myriad of songs  
Inviting us to experience the richness of prayer  
Inviting us to break bread and share wine  
Inviting us to gather together to celebrate our diversity

For this is my body, this is my blood, and you are my people.

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