

Diverse City Eucharist

Written during Urban Expression's 15th birthday celebration weekend in Poplar in London's East End drawing on images and reflections from the day. In true Urban Expression style Eucharist was shared gathered around a table, complete with candelabra and prayers written and drawn onto plates and glasses, set for a banquet where everyone's invited to share slices of gooey chocolate cake precariously topped with thimbles of grape juice served on plates decorated with prayers written by two of the children with us.

Come and see!

Come and see!

4 carrots
2 onions
a red pepper
a bag of potatoes
an invitation
to bring veg
from across countries
communities
and cultures
a seasoning of faith
3 blokes in a steamy kitchen
bubbling enthusiasm
into bohemian soup
thanks given
and broth shared
with I've no idea
how many people.

Come and see!

Come and see!

A gazebo
a park bench
chairs sinking into
muddy grass
an ancient churchyard
in the heart
of the hubbub
of the East End
fallen leaves
turning soggy
in misty drizzle
planes droning
a motor bike accelerating
sound of children's feet
running on concrete
a buzz of conversation
ideas sparked
stories shared
pain acknowledged
frustrations aired

connections made
the breaking down
of "us" and "them".

Come and see!
Come and see!

A beautiful church -
cum-centre-of-community
chocolate celebrations
given and received
familiar faces catch up
more than pleasantries
are exchanged
strangers are greeted
as potential new friends
schedules are behind
tweets encouraged
so those not here friends
can feel part of
whatever this may be
a bunch of misfits
from many walks of life
journeying together
embracing the chaos
willing to take risks
seeking to embody
the presence of God.

Come and see!
Come and see!

A tent squatting
on a parquet floor
cardboard billboards
inviting you in
'Don't be shy
come in and occupy'
biscuits offered
a skull shaped tea pot
stories gifted
pictures proclaiming
there is another way
where the outcast
becomes the host
the rejected
becomes the one
who accepts
the stranger
gives a welcome
the anarchist
creates peace
and God dances
mischievously among us.

Come and see!
Come and see!

A dinner table
set for a banquet
a child offers
freshly baked bread
and draws prayers
for much missed friends
on a plate
for here we are all guests
invited by Jesus
outcast and rebel
to journey to a place
beyond respectability
invited by Jesus
activist and bringer of peace
to journey to a place
where the impossible
becomes possible
where humanity
embodies divinity
where love overcomes hate
and life grows out of death.

"This is my body"
broken by the scandal
of human separation.

"This is my blood"
celebration of new life
pulsing through diverse city.

(Break cake and put onto Jacob and Rueben's plates
pour wine into Jacob's glass
share cake and wine)

Come and see!
Come and see!

As we choose
to love our neighbours
as ourselves
to plant the seeds
of revolution...
of kin-dom...
of hope...
of resurrection...
and we are freed
to say naughty things
in Jesus name!

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