**Theme – Holy Habit … Eating together**

The Book of Acts gives us ten clear instructions of how to become stronger and more faithful disciples. These are called ‘**Holy Habits**’ and they assist us in deepening our discipleship. Today we shall explore the seventh Holy Habit, **Eating Together.** During the service we shall be learning about Fasting and Feasting, and Table Fellowship and how this discipline can be used to bring glory to God.

**Call to worship**

Leader Guided by your Spirit,

 we have made the journey

 through the wilderness and desert,

 trekking across rocky paths and dirt tracks,

 and crowded city streets.

**All We have travelled alone.**

 **We have travelled with those we love.**

 **We have jostled with those whose company**

 **we have not always enjoyed.**

 **But we have made it into your house,**

 **for rest, for inspiration,**

 **for forgiveness, for hope, for love.**

Leader Receive us afresh,

 renew us and inspire us, Lord.

 Amen

**Hymn** **RS 480** *The church is like a table*

**Opening prayers**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Readings** *Acts 2:37-47*

**‘Holy Habits** *Fasting and Feasting*

**Hymn** When we come and eat together;

 mindful of the bounty God provides.

 Table fellowship is present,

 Holy and divine.

 When we fast on human contact,

 Feeling desolate and all windblown.

 Table fellowship is present,

 A sign we’re not alone.

 In the midst of conversation

 Feasting on richness of God’s grace.

 Table fellowship is present,

 Giving breathing space.

 Jesus be at this our table,

 Guide our thoughts and actions with your Love;

 Table fellowship is present,

 Spirit from above.

©Ruth Dillon 2017

Tune Yarnton 89 85

**Reading** *Luke 14:15-23*

**‘Holy Habit’** *Table Fellowship*

**Hymn**

 It makes a banquet from a meal
 when fellowship is shared with friends,
 the tête-à-tête is blessed by God,
 our food and conversation blends.

 The little café where we meet,
 the welcome hubbub that we hear,
 the sights and smells that bring delight
 are signs that God and love are near.

 On special days we eat in style,
 we celebrate with food and wine,
 we meet with joy, give thanks and sing
 to God of harvest, fruit and vine.

 Yet every time we take a meal
 the fact that we are being fed
 confirms that God has heard our prayer:
 'give us, each day, our daily bread'.

 Andrew E Pratt (born 1948)
 © 2002 Stainer & Bell Ltd
 Tune Truro LM
**Offertory**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Hymn RS 567** *Thy hand O God has guided*

**Closing Prayer**

Leader God who provides all the food we need

 for our physical journey and our spiritual

 journey.

**All Be with us as we share our food**

 **with our friends and family**

Leader Jesus who is the silent listener and guest

 at every table, guiding our words, thoughts

 and actions

**All Be with us as we share our food**

 **with the stranger and the lonely**

Leader Spirit who creates community with God

 and our brothers and sisters within humanity.

**All Be with us as we share our brokenness and**

 **joy, surrounded by the Love you give us all.**

**Closing Blessing**

****

**7. Eating Together**

