

Hospitality

A Reader's Theater

Part 1

(In the foyer, 1 & 2 stand together, 3 stands to the side)

Voice 1: Good morning!

Voice 2: Good morning!

Voice 1: How are you?

Voice 2: Fine, thanks. And you?

Voice 1: OK, but I had a busy week.

Voice 2: I know what you mean. It is year-end at work, kids are in hockey, music lessons, youth group...

Voice 1: I will be leading worship this morning – our theme is “hospitality.”

Voice 2: That suits you; you are always having people over.

Voice 1: We enjoy guests.

Voice 2: It's just too much work for our family to get the house straightened up and then prepare a big meal yet. We need our weekends to relax and have time as a family.

Voice 1: I agree. It is important to put your feet up and slow the pace of the week a bit. We try to fit that in too.

Voice 2: I don't know how you manage to find the time for everything.

Voice 1: You have been to our place – you know we don't find time for everything. But we wouldn't miss having a chance to visit with friends.

Voice 2: Do you know who that is standing over there? *(nodding toward 3)*

Voice 1: No, I don't. Have you seen her here before?

Voice 2: No, I haven't. She doesn't seem to be with anyone. I wonder what brings her here.

Voice 1: We should point out to the pastor that there is a newcomer here.

Voice 2: Yes, they are usually prepared to have guests over for Sunday lunch.

Voice 1: I think that is really nice. People seem to appreciate it.

Voice 2: It helps our church have a friendly image. Visitors may come back if they get invited out and get to know someone a bit.

Voice 1: Coming over for Bible Study tonight?

Voice 2: No, my sister is coming over.

Voice 1: We really should get together.

Voice 2: Yes.

Part 2

(In the worship service. 1 stands apart as worship leader, 2 & 3 are together facing 1)

Voice 1: Good morning!

Voices 2 and 3: Good morning!

Voice 1: We come together to worship, joining with each other in love, faith, and community, that we may be alone but never lonely, that we may be together but never lost in the crowd, that we may be one without forfeiting uniqueness. Come together, and let the spirit of God flow in each one and through us all as we walk together on the journey.

This morning we welcome guests who have come to worship with us.

Voice 2 (to 3): Welcome to our church!

Voice 3: I'm new here.

Voice 2: We are glad you came.

Voice 1: Let us worship together.

Part 3

(1, 2, & 3 face the audience)

Voice 1: Hospitality is

Voice 2: greeting

Voice 3: acknowledging

Voice 1: welcoming

Voice 2: accepting

Voice 3: sharing ourselves

Voice 2: inviting someone to our home

Voice 1: going out for coffee

Voice 3: eating together

Voice 2: fellowship

Voice 3: bringing baking

Voice 1: warmth

Voice 2: kindness

Voice 1: caring

Voice 3: including newcomers in our activities

Voice 2: taking time for each other

Voice 1: getting to know people better

Voice 3: staying connected.

Voice 2: But it is hard to

Voice 1: make time

Voice 3: prepare a meal or baking

Voice 2: clean the house

Voice 1: greet someone you don't know

Voice 2: introduce yourself

Voice 1: make conversation

Voice 3: know what to say

Voice 2: get to know someone who seems to be so different from ... me

Voice 3: different generation

Voice 2: different background

Voice 3: different interests

Voice 1: different profession

Voice 3: different education

Voice 2: different neighborhood

Voice 1: different status

Voice 3: different lifestyle.

Voice 2: It is easy to forget that each individual

Voice 1: is created in the image of God

Voice 3: with similar needs of

Voice 2: being included

Voice 3: loved, and accepted

Voice 1: welcomed and cared for

Voice 2: to feel that we belong to a community and are important to others.

Voice 1: It is time we developed our skills

Voice 3: of sensitivity to others, nurturing them,

Voice 2: encouraging them, affirming their gifts

Voice 1: being open to each other

Voice 2: being available to each other

Voice 3: in love.

Carolyn Epp-Fransen (Canada), 2021. Charleswood Mennonite Church.
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