

The church is like a table

HOLLY LANE (7.6.7 7 7.6.)

Pamela Ward (1946-)

The church is like a ta - ble, a ta - ble that is round. It has no sides or
cor - ners, no first or last, no ho - nours; here
peo - ple are in one - ness and love to - ge - ther bound.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 7/6. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: G, C, Am, D, D7, G in the first system; C, A, A7, D in the second system; G, C, Am, D, D7, G in the third system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Round-table church

- 1 The church is like a table,
a table that is round.
It has no sides or corners,
no first or last, no honours;
here people are in one-ness
and love together bound.
- 2 The church is like a table
set in an open house;
no protocol for seating,
a symbol of inviting,
of sharing, drinking, eating;
an end to them and us.
- 3 The church is like a table,
a table for a feast
to celebrate the healing
of all excluded-feeling,
(while Christ is serving, kneeling,
a towel round his waist).
- 4 The church is like a table,
where every head is crowned.
As guests of God created,
all are to each related;
the whole world is awaited
to make the circle round.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

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Fred Kaan, born and educated in the Netherlands, was ordained as a congregational minister in 1955. He began writing hymns while minister of Pilgrim Church, Plymouth. Many of his hymns contain radical international themes, tackling prejudice and the causes of poverty.

Here, he celebrates the egalitarian nature of the Lord's table at the heart of the Messiah's great banquet. The gospels teach us that all are invited to the feast, and none are greater or lesser in status. Indeed, using John's gospel's account of the last supper, he depicts Christ as the servant at the table, his servanthood giving the example to all the guests. In the end, the table is the symbol for the church, which in turn is the focus for the healing of the world.