

# from this place

by Karen Georgia A. Thompson

We travel together into a future unknown  
owners of a resplendent journey  
guided by the Deep Mystery  
each breath taken, a revelation of miracle  
holding the joys and intentions of each unrepeatable moment.

We sojourned in this place  
where we welcomed the blessings of the Sacred  
this place where we welcomed the stranger  
where we threw wide the doors of the church  
this place where the spirits of the Ancestors rested with us.

The Ancestors of the Amistad story  
a reminder of who we are  
a people of justice  
a people descended from the enslaved  
a people living out truth, justice and social relevance.

We are the children of many, gathering as one  
reaching beyond the brokenness of the world  
to clothe each other with healing  
to release the woundedness visited upon us  
as fragile beings.

We hold memories of days past  
as we together created space  
where Spirit was present  
where God was experienced and revealed  
in the word poured out among us.

We remember the table  
a place where the intimate and the holy are revealed  
the elements tangible  
repeatedly calling us to this table of fellowship and love  
moving us closer to each other and yet closer to God.

We gathered as people of God to share  
seated around the one table  
to break bread  
to drink wine  
to give thanks.

We came as people of God to share  
at the table, it's presence a reminder  
of God's love given through Jesus  
of our past insistence for justice  
of our present quest for all.

We hold the beauty of each moment here  
with love and care  
living into the purpose of our existence  
contributing to dismantling false narratives  
wayfarers on a journey moving with the Spirit of the Holy.

These memories travel with us  
carried on each breath  
heard in the melodies of refrains  
the songs we sang  
the hands we held.

We sat together in the Light  
watching the world go by  
reminded we are a part of this world  
the Spirit with us revealed in each face we encountered  
beckoning us to contribute to transformation.

This journey is marked with our fear  
we step onto the road of the unknown  
marveling at the hopes we carry  
desperate to know how all will unfold  
wanting guarantees of a happy ending.

We are called to believe  
children of God wrestling with the length of the trip  
aspiring for the end of the journey  
missing the brilliant moments divulged along the way  
as we fret with discomfort born of uncertainty.

We are called to go  
to release the ties holding us  
all we know is what we have seen  
all we can expect is what we have known  
we follow the Living God who goes before.

We grieve in releasing the presence of the table  
in letting go of this place we called home  
the absence of the familiar a reminder of the unknown  
the table moved on  
the Spirit now carries with us waiting for us to follow.

Like those who went before us  
walking the journey through the wilderness  
the Spirit of God goes before us  
the Spirit of God is with us  
we are not alone.

We follow the cloud and the fire  
we follow the guidance of the Holy  
we are leaving this place guided by God  
who is always with us  
our hopes for the future surpassing our memories of the past.