

FACE TO FACE

1978. Holy Communion was always a very somber occasion in the Lutheran Church, a private affair. We used to be amused at the way people at our Murray Bridge congregation, not wanting to catch anyone's eye as they came back from kneeling at the altar to receive the bread and wine, would always look up towards the balcony. I don't disagree with it being serious, but it's good that in recent years it's lightened up considerably. This song relates to that shift. The melody and musical feel owes a lot to Australian country-folk singer, Mike McClelland. I always hear it as a light country waltz, the last dance for the night, and I hope the words convey to people that it's a good feeling to be at the altar with other Christians and with God.

1. The candles are lit and the table is laid;
Everything's set to begin:
Parents and children and husbands and wives
Brothers and sisters and friends.

2. The words that are spoken are simple but true,
"This is my body and blood;"
Here is forgiveness for all of your sins
Here is the promise of God.

Here we meet you once again,
God of mercy, God of grace;
Taste your love in bread and wine,
We meet you face to face

3. The candles are lit and the table is laid:
God's invitation says "Come!"
Come, all is ready, our host is at hand,
Father, and Spirit, and Son.

4. No need to be anxious or troubled with fear,
Jesus turns no-one away;
If you need healing or comfort or strength,
Come to this table today. [Chorus]

5. We're free from our sin
and we're free from our death,
Free from our chains of the past;
Free to be lovers and givers and friends,
Free to be people at last! [Chorus]

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