



**MERCY**  
**GLOBAL**  
PRESENCE

# Artistic Response: Faith Traditions and Mercy – Table of MERCY

**Anne Reddington rsm & Maureen Murphy rsm (GB Union)**

The title of this painting is *Table of MERCY*. I used a fractured technique and tried to create visual balance and unity. Colour, light and symbolism allow the viewer to immerse themselves in the work as opposed to simply being an observer.

- Anne Reddington rsm



Who are we if not kin  
Where is the Table where we could sit together?  
See us – the different – sitting as one,  
Halo-ed and held by our only common identity: 'HUMAN',  
By our one shared place – this green but groaning Earth.

Who are we?  
Hemmed in by our traditions, solidity of our buildings....  
O may their stones not harden us to an unreachable unity,  
But be signs of our faiths that there IS God...

Unshod we should come to this Table,  
This Holy Ground,  
For this Table is MERCY, the blood in our veins,  
The food that unites.  
Against all that divides and indifferences us,  
MERCY will save.

Lean in to listen, O sister, O brother.  
Incline your ear and your heart to the other  
Be it woman or man,  
Hindu or Muslim, Christian or Jew  
Or WHO?  
For who are we if not kin?  
Lean in to listen as MERCY is spoken...

O onlooker see the empty stool!  
Is not GOD here and hidden among us?  
Or – has someone left the Table,  
Unable to reconcile difference, rejoice in diversity?  
Or – who may yet come  
Because we said: "YOU WOULD BE WELCOME..."

Table of MERCY – one blood in our veins.  
CUP OF KINDNESS – O take it, do!  
And radiate MERCY for sharing and healing,  
For binding the wounds of our poor.

See, O spectator, the OLIVE BRANCH  
Shyly but bravely displayed.  
Who are we if not kin?  
Who will offer it if not YOU...?

- *Maureen Murphy rsm*