

Sacredise

Seeking to be Fully Alive
Resources for Integrative Liturgical Spirituality and Worship

Meeting With God

This play is a simple and brief introduction to the ideas of why we come to church and the need to connect with other people in order to worship well. It ends with inviting the whole congregation to greet each other and get to know each other a little better. It is best used at the start of a service with no introduction – as if the conversation is happening naturally before the service starts, and the congregation just happens to be overhearing it.

Two people walk into the church from any entrance, and start talking. One person is a regular, and rather enjoys having “insider knowledge”, while the other is a rather unfamiliar with what goes on in a church and has some interesting ideas.

Person One: What is this place?

Person Two: It's a tribute to the human desire to create places of sacred significance. (*Trying to sound knowledgeable*) The architecture is a little ambivalent, but I'd say it's a blend of modern and neo-classical styles.

Person One: (*Looking very confused*) What on earth are you talking about? What's going on here?

Person Two: (*Now speaking as if explaining something obvious to a child*) Well, it's a large building with lots of chairs, which are now partly filled with people.

Person One: (*A tad frustrated*) I can see that. But what is it?

Person Two: (*Smugly*) It's a church.

Person One: (*Gasps*) Where God lives? (*In a whisper*) Shouldn't we be kneeling or whispering or something?

Person Two: God doesn't live here – at least not only here.

Person One: (*Looking impressed, but uncertain*) What? God has a bunch of houses? Like holiday homes and stuff?

Person Two: (*Shaking head and trying to sound like a preacher*) The Lord dwelleth not in habitations fashioned by the hands of humans.

Person One: Huh?

Person Two: God doesn't “live” in buildings. God's presence fills every part of the universe.

Person One: Then, why do you have a church? And why is it called “the house of the Lord”?

Written by John van de Laar © Sacredise 2008

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Person Two: (*Softening and trying to be really helpful now*) It's really for us. We need a place to get out of the distractions and busyness of our lives to focus on meeting with God – allowing God's presence to become real to us, and allowing us to hear what God has to say to us.

Person One: You mean, God meets with us? Here?

Person Two: (*Very pleased*) Indeed!

Person One: (*Rather awestruck*) Wow! God meets with us! (*Getting excited*) Can I meet God? Here? Now? Huh? Huh?

Person Two: Yes, you can. We all can.

Person One: So that's why all these people are here. I wonder what's going to happen?

Person Two: Well, we're going to do some things – singing, praying, reading – that help us to be aware of God.

Person One: But can't you do that on your own? Why come here? Why do I have to have all these other people around? (*Whispering*) Some of them look a little....uh....different.

Person Two: Because we need other people to really connect with God.

Person One: What do you mean?

Person Two: Each one of us – even the, uh, “different” ones – is made in God's image. We get to know God better as we learn to see God in each other.

Person One: (*Cautiously, a little sceptical*) Ok?

Person Two: And the Bible tells us that we can't love God if we don't love other people – these people that God made and that God loves so incredibly much.

Person One: (*Looking a little more comfortable*) I think I'm beginning to understand....

Person Two: So, we come together, in places like this, to meet with God together. We sing together, we pray together, we read together, we learn together, and we love together, because when we do this, in some amazing, mysterious way, God's Presence becomes real to us, and we find ourselves in an encounter with God.

Person One: (*Definitely impressed now*) Wow! That's got to change a person!

Person Two: It certainly does!

Person One: Well, if God wants to meet with us, and if we need each other to help this meeting to happen, shouldn't we at least say hello to each other, then?

Person Two: (*Smiling*) I guess we should!

The two actors then begin to greet people in the congregation, encouraging them to greet one another, so that the whole church ends up spending time greeting each other and getting to know each other just a little better.