
THE QUESTION NO ONE WANTS TO ASK

Why Are You Meeting In a Place Like This?

Why we're meeting here.

So, why meet here, of all places?

On the whole, we'd rather be in a beautiful building, perhaps Gothic, or Colonial, or Spanish Mission style. We are no different than anyone else in the appreciation of beauty. But we are here, not because we love the present surroundings, but because we love the Christian faith found in Holy Scriptures more than the beautiful buildings.

We are also here because the churches that for many decades represented the Christian faith with integrity, have changed direction, and sacrificed the Faith for the theological fads of the moment. But they have also surrendered vitally important parts of Christian doctrine and practice. We are here because we cannot let go of the Faith, nor the godly traditions of the historic Church.

Lex Orandi, lex credendi

It begins with the way in which we pray. Sounds strange to say that, but it is the first and best place to see what someone believes. There is an old Latin saying that goes, "Lex orandi, lex credendi ('You pray what you believe,' or literally, 'The Law of Prayer is the Law of Belief'). Our worship must be God-centered, and an offering of ourselves to God, if it is to be in line with Holy Scripture.

Too many worship services today center on the worshipper, and on how they feel as they attend, or as they leave the service. Others rework the service for those seeking a religious experience, or just religion. Our worship is the offering of ourselves, soul and body, as a sacrifice to God. Our attention is God-ward, and not on ourselves. And yet, God still blesses; God still encourages us.

Sacred Space

Because our prayers move us to present ourselves to God as living sacrifices, we must reflect that in our worship area. Because worship is our joining a service already in progress in heaven, we are careful that even the way we set things up reflects that. The Christian people

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who have gathered face the same direction to express their unity in offering themselves to God. The procession that enters at the beginning of the service heads from the back to the front of that space, not only telling us that the service is begun, but also that we are entering into God's presence. Remember, we join a service already in progress - 'all the company of heaven.'

A nice building is an important item to us, but it is in an order of priority. We must first see to the proper expression of our faith through worship and living. We cannot deny what the universal Church has taught for millennia. And we will not join the fad to re-draw worship into cheezy entertainment or maudlin sentimentality. It is a reverent act of devout people who present themselves to God.

Still, watch us as we grow. Because the matter of offering is so important to us, we want to offer God the very best, and that includes the building in which we worship. Please do not think we are here as an angry and unhappy band at war with everyone else and content in the rudest of places. We want the building we use to reflect all that Holy

Scripture teaches us about worship and praise, and we invite you to join with us in making that plan a reality.

More importantly, we hope you will join with us because of your concern and commitment to proper, biblical and historic worship before the God of all creation!