

The Home of God with Dr. Miroslav Volf

Small Groups

Group 1

Focus Area: Loss of Presence, Acceleration of Time

Notes:

- Role of Devices
 - o no one could disturb you during some times
- Tension between post-covid acceleration of time and trying to find time to put down roots and develop community
- To create space – how do you avoid cutting out the good stuff?
- There was less over-scheduling in the 50's
 - o What do we do about the overscheduling?
 - Events that provide childcare for young parents and middle-aged adults
 - St. Mark's does not have enough kids for a pageant
 - Youth group?
- How to make sure people are “present” in the church
 - o Elements of home
 - “art” as a way of creating “home”
 - Music
 - o How do you get people to come more than once a week?
- What is it to be human?
 - o Art, beauty, aesthetics
- Fish fry – everyone works together
 - o Principles of attachment and mutuality
- Time is highly experiential
 - o Time stands still “in communion”
 - o We need to slow down time
 - o Thorn of crowns ritual at Notre Dame in Paris
- Find presence in being silent with other people.
- Can you be “spiritual” without being religious?
- How do you get people to unplug from the matrix?
 - o Presence for one another
- Person visiting – someone that showed up that cathedral? Works in a bird lab doing autopsies, around death all the time.
- Welcoming to the LGBT community
- We live in an A to B world. What is the B we should be aiming at?
- What are the “metrics” that we should use to judge the “end” we are trying to attain?
- How do we know what is “enough”? How do we relate to the material world?
- How do you “feel” – do you feel joy?

Group 2

Focus Area: Who is Jesus for us today?

Notes:

- Carroll's Christ: Jesus in terms of Holocaust, oppression, identifying with the poor, oppressed.
- Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus and Harlem Renaissance related to persecution of Jesus.
- Kenosis – self empathy
- A comfortable church is complicit
- Jesus as self-emptying
- Cosmic X
- Sermon on the Mount – all Kenosis
- God's self-disclosure on Sinai recapitulated in John the steward made flesh
 - o Glory → Human → Emptying and assumption of Glory
 - o Means of grace and hope of Glory
- The current state of the church is more glorified since New Jesus – there's no church.
- Church presence realized
- Moon reflecting something that's already here. Merton – We are all one, we just imagine we are not.
- The need to engage the more than in life self-emptying God. God as one of us; God is here.
- The "Kingdom" of God is a table and a washing of feet.
- Presence of God – How to be present to our whole community not just those like us – Meta Home
- How to increase permeability to the Emergent Church – center of gravity
- Not to belong, behave, believe; but to have kenosis – allow people to come
 - o Expansive – move out or around.
- How are we present with each other?
 - o Slow down by doing stuff that we have to be present to do.
 - o Church could teach that it's okay to allow people to do nothing.
- Our brain chemistry is open to awe
 - o We should go out into the world and look for things that surprise us
- Counterculture/salvific
- Self-emptying – kenosis
- Presence as lineage = connection to each other and world
- We are built for awe

Group 3

Focus Area: Who is Christ for us today? For some people he is irrelevant. Church attendance today is very small?

Notes:

- In Louisville, two days before Thanksgiving, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim people share a dinner together
- People of faith are in need of grounding metaphors
- The scripture accounts of Jesus sometimes don't agree until what we believe concerns Jesus – Crafelo has accounts of Jesus giving parables about slaves
- The image of God comes into the world to our home
- When we go home it is like returning to our mother's womb to warmth and softness but that is not a place to stay – home is not a place to stay but a place to
- The body of Christ as the temple of the Holy Spirit

Group 4

Focus Area: All three

Notes:

- Who is Jesus?
 - Most difficult, demanding question
 - Bonhoeffer question
 - Christian Germany was seduced
 - American Christianity is now being seduced into othering
 - Personal Relationship
 - Personal response to the demands of Jesus
 - Trust that Jesus is at work in us, even if we don't fully understand
- Alternative Metaphor: Traveler, Journey
 - What kind of journey are we to be on? Tourist, passer-by, a pilgrim seeking the sacred in all things
 - Home metaphor has difficulty because home can have negative experiences
- Loss of Presence
 - Shimmering – phones and social media cause us to not be present with one another
 - Jesus was born and shared our human existence and was present to us fully
- How do we “birth” a new world, given the death of our current world and its metaphors