



Prayer

Almighty God, by your grace you have given us new life in Jesus Christ. By your Spirit you have called us to proclaim His Name throughout the world. Awaken in us such a love for you and your work that we may so boldly share Jesus Christ in word and deed that all people may come to know him as Saviour and follow him as Lord, to the glory of your name. Amen.

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the sessions

Session 1: *Brave New World?*

Session 2: *What in the World is God up to?*

Session 3: *The School of Jesus*

Session 4: *Changing world, changing church*

Session 5: *Where do we go from here?*

Session 6: *Next steps*

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Last week:

The School of Jesus

What it means to live as an
apprentice of Jesus, learning to do
the work of the Kingdom

Evangelism: co-operating with the
Holy Spirit to help people take
steps towards being apprentices of
Jesus



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the mixed economy church



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Homework Review

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How far can
we change
church to
suit people's
culture?
When does it
stop being
church?

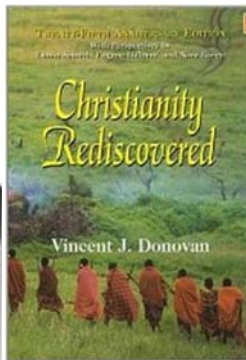


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Vincent Donovan
1926 - 2000
Spiritan missionary in
Tanzania 1957 - 1973



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Pat Patten's story

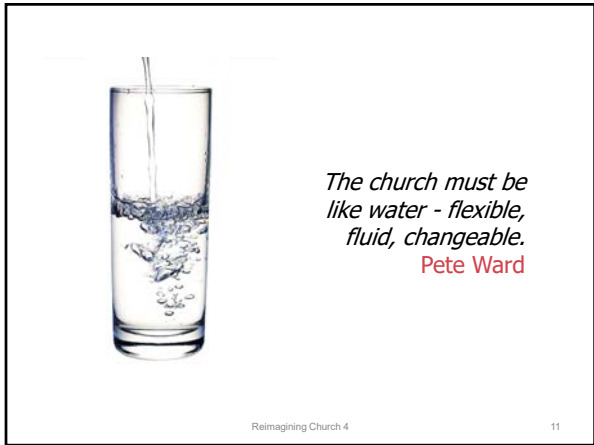
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*The church must be
like water - flexible,
fluid, changeable.*
Pete Ward

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- The container may change with the culture.
- The H₂O must remain the same.
- But which is which?



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Church . . . in a beautiful old building?



Church . . . under a tree?

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Church . . . with an organ?



Church . . . with steel drums?

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Church . . . with no sacraments but a commitment to social justice?

Church . . . with liturgical worship but no social justice?



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What is the H₂O of church?

Jesus went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, **to be with him, and to be sent out** to proclaim the message, and to have authority to cast out demons.

(Mark 3:13-15)

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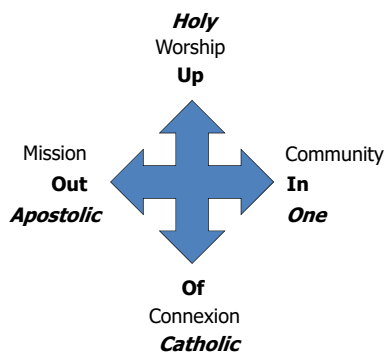
What is the essence of Church?
One answer . . .

$H_2O =$

- *Community of followers of Jesus*
- *Gathered for Word and Sacrament*
- *Committed to serving in the world*
 - *Linked to the wider church*

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- The container may change with the culture
- The H_2O must remain the same
- What is essential? What can change?
- **How can people in our culture get to drink the living water?**



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Isaiah 43

14 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans [Babylonians] will be turned to lamentation. 15 I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. 16 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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For Discussion

- What do we learn about God and God's ways in the world?
- Why do the people need to "forget the past"?
- What other times in the Bible can you think of when God does something new?
- What response does God hope for from these people?
- What promises does God make to them to make it possible for them to respond?

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fresh expressions of church

- Night Shift
- Cameron House
- Somewhere Else

What do these stories have in common,
and how are they different?
What do you learn from them?

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building planes
. . . in the air

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the examen

Consolation
Desolation

- When was I encouraged, or touched, or joyful?
- What might God be saying?
- How might I respond?
- When was I troubled, or sad, or angry?
- What might God be saying?
- How might I respond?

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Merciful God, creator of the peoples on earth and lover of souls, have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your son Jesus Christ. Let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it, turn the hearts of those who resist it, and bring home to your flock those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Solemn Collect for Good Friday

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Next week . . .

"Where do we go from here?"

See you then!

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