



Sermon Notes

Term – Summer 2022

Series – A worshipping Community

Gathering & Date – the 10, 29 May 2022

Title – A place God calls home ...

Preacher – Paul Langham

Reading – Exodus 40:1-16, 33-38 / 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

Notes

Exodus 40

- levels of separation between God and people – physical & human: areas ... curtains ... priests ...
- The Hebrew for tabernacle is *mishkan* which means dwelling place: God wants to live with his people
- The Israelites are a people defined by the presence of God in their midst
- Forgiveness and mercy was mediated to the people by special people = priests ...
- God reveals his specific, tangible presence in the place where he dwells (tabernacle)
- God trained his people to follow his presence, represented by the cloud

1 Peter 2

- No separation between God and his people
- God wants to live with his people – then in a tent, now in us, the ‘living stones’ of his spiritual house
- ‘living stones’ is not an individualistic description: while God does live within each of us by his Spirit, we also need to come together to be built into a place he can call home
- Christians are a people defined by the presence of God in our midst
- Forgiveness and mercy has been mediated to us ‘once and for all’ by the death of Jesus
- All those who follow Jesus are called to be priests of his kingdom
- Priests offer sacrifices – our sacrifices do not involve animals but the offering of our lives: our time, our compassion, our money, our service, our interaction with others, our worship
- God wants to reveal his presence through us
- God invites us to follow his presence above all other things – our instincts, our wisdom, our whims, our preferences, our fears ...

Questions

1. Do you live in the reality of no separation between you and God?
2. Have you fully accepted the forgiveness and mercy that come from Jesus? Do you know yourself to be eternally free?
3. Have you embraced the beautiful truth that God wants to dwell in you?
4. One of the idols of our age is individualism – how can we combat that tendency to pull away from our fellow believers?
5. What sacrifices is the Holy Spirit asking of you? Your time, your money, your preferences, your fear ...?
6. How is the presence of God made manifest in and through you?
7. Has the Holy Spirit trained you to follow the cloud? What competing ‘presences’ are you tempted to follow rather than the presence of God?
8. Where has God placed you?
9. With whom in particular are you being built into God’s home?
10. How is he speaking with you? Where is he leading you ... and to whom?