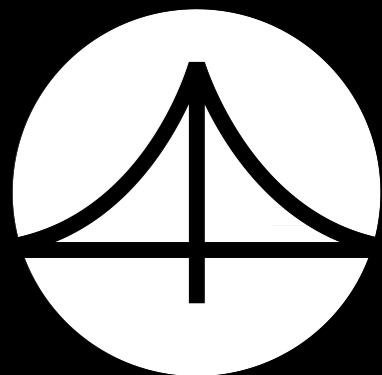


Hospitality: God With Us

Matthew 1:18-25



**Hospitality: Pursuing
and showing love to
the stranger**

God with us calls for us with others.

1. Created for Relationship

2. The Cost of Relationship

3. The Call to Relationship

Created for Relationship

- The Trinity means God has always been in a relationship
- Our creation in God's image means we are made for relationships

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

– Psalm 73:25-26

“I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection.”

– Philipians 3:8, 10

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

– Psalm 16:11

The Cost of Relationship

- Adam and Eve eating the fruit in the Garden of Eden was an intentional choice to cut themselves off from their relationship with God
- Sin: An attitude of the heart that is set against submitting to God's authority; this heart attitude is the only reason we ever do actions that are wrong
- A broken relationship with God leads to broken relationships with other people

The Cost of Relationship

- We need a way back to God, but we can't get there through our effort

“And the Word [Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

– John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.”

– John 1:14 in The Message

The Cost of Relationship

- We need a way back to God, but we can't get there through our effort
- To solve our problem of broken relationships, God came to be with us
- The death of Jesus allows us to know God as our Father and friend

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will BE WITH THEM as their God.”

– Revelation 21:3

The Call to Relationship

Matthew 1:18-25

**“I will bless you and make your name great,
SO THAT you will be a blessing”**

– Genesis 12:2

The Call to Relationship

- God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others
- God's hospitality to us is meant to lead us to be hospitable to others

The Call to Relationship

- A Question: Who are the people around me that God may be calling me to be hospitable to?
- 2 Challenges:
 1. Pray for people as God brings their names to mind
 2. Reflect on the hospitality God has shown to you