

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church

The Bride, the Body, a Holy Community

God gives us different images to help us understand the church. Between the bride, the body and the Holy Community which of these three do you connect with/understand best when thinking about the church?

Why is that?

The Bride

Like the bride in the first century we are waiting for our groom to come back to take us home. But we, collectively, have been waiting for a long time. When Jesus comes back he is hoping to find his bride waiting and ready for him.

What do you see as the/some important focuses that the Bride (church) should be doing to prepare herself?

We are called to Love God, to love people and love ourselves.

How do we as a church do this?

Share what you're involved in, and what others are involved in to get a greater picture of what we as a church are doing – to love God, to love people and to love ourselves

The Body

We are one body made of many parts

Read 1 Corinthians 12 12-31 – if possible from different versions (I read from The Message)

What from these verses stands out (speaks) to you?

Why is that, do you think?

What are the different parts of the body? What part do you feel that you play within the body? What opportunities would you like to be able to have within the body?

Are there times when you feel that the part you play is not valued as much as the other?

What does the above passage say about this?

How can we best value each other better? 😊

A Holy Community

Read through Cornerstones vision of a Holy Community

What stands out to you the most? Why do you think it does?

Is there a common thread for you between the bride, the body and the holy community?

What do you think God is saying to you through these different images of the Church?

Pray for one another, encouraging one another 😊

Our VISION of A HOLY COMMUNITY

A holy community looks like a group of ordinary people who gather in the name of Jesus, to worship Him and lift his name high. He is at the centre of it all.

There is no star of the show other than Jesus.

A holy community is a place where despite our differences we choose to be ONE.

Where we would dare to be vulnerable, open and accessible,

making room for questions, fear and failure

where we acknowledge that life is complicated and at times so hard and unfair but that our Father in Heaven is good and just and we are His – so let's journey through together.

A holy community makes room for the Spirit of God to do his fine work in and amongst us, we allow him to be our guide, our comfort, our counsellor.

A holy community doesn't run from suffering but embraces it, allowing the hard things to further soften our hearts and draw us deeper into the love and goodness of God.

A holy community takes their place in Gods story and does all they can do in their appointed time to be a place of healing, freedom and restoration.

It stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before, it is fully alert and awake in the here and now, and look to the horizon and we build for the generations to come.

A holy community loves beyond words and responds to the missional call beyond its own borders. It gets its hands dirty and is not afraid to go into the darkest of places to shine light.

We, its members, act justly, we love mercy and we walk humbly.

A holy community is a house of prayer. It engages in the battle – and stands in the gap and intercedes for our friends, our neighbours, our enemies, our leaders, our nation, our hurting and broken world.

Rather than turning up and saying, "what can you give me" – "what can I get"

We say, "what can I give" and "how can I serve"

An attitude and way of being which turns consumerism on its head.

A holy community worships together. It breaks bread together. It starts again together. We remember together. Its members remind each other of the glory of the cross and we choose life and forgiveness and mercy and grace and acceptance and inclusion.

There is room at the table for everyone and there is more than enough to go around.

This is who we are and this is who we are becoming.

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