

# SERMON NOTES

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## God with Us, Us with One Another, and the Place of “Online Church”

Various Passages | Matt Green | May 31, 2020

### The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

- The church has a long history of making use of media technology: scroll, codex, printing press, radio, TV, internet
- With today’s technology, who needs old-fashioned, in-person church services?

### God’s Purpose: Presence with His People

- **The Garden of Eden:** The Lord’s presence in “the cool of the day” (Genesis 3)
- **The Tabernacle and Temple:** The Lord’s presence in the Holy of Holies
- **God’s purpose of presence with His people stands,** despite their disobedience (Ezekiel 37; Jeremiah 31)
- **New Jerusalem:** Eternal life in God’s presence (Revelation 21)

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*“We are not talking of a God who stands far off from His world, aloof and distant from its problems. We are dealing with a God who has entered into our human situation, who became man and dwelt among us as one of us—who knows at first hand what it is like to be frail, mortal and human, to suffer and to die. ... God knows what it is like to be human—an astonishing and comforting thought. ... God has not sent a messenger or representative to help the poor creatures that we are—He has involved Himself directly, redeeming His own creation, instead of getting someone else to do it for Him.” — ALISTER McGRATH*

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# THE PLACE OF “ONLINE CHURCH”

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## Jesus: God with Us As One of Us

- **Immanuel:** “God with us” (Matthew 1)
- **The Word Became Flesh:** Pitching His Tabernacle among us (John 1:14)
- Jesus’ death brought **atonement**
  - Reconciliation with God (1 Peter 3:18)
  - Reconciliation with one another (Ephesians 2:13)
- Jesus’ provides the **example** for our life together
- As followers of Christ, **we carry out His work on earth** (John 20:21; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

## The Place of “Online Church”

- We should **prioritize physical presence**
- There is **a place for “online church”**
  - Exercising Spirit-led caution in a season like COVID
  - Physical/mobility issues; social anxiety
  - While traveling and away from the family
- Church is not about our **convenience**

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*“If disembodied communication were a sufficient strategy for relating to the human family, there likely never would have been an Incarnation. God could have continued to communicate with the human family virtually and remotely through a series of voice messages and disembodied holographic images (think burning bushes and still, small voices). From a Christian point of view, the perpetually stunning disruption is that the fullest and most complete disclosure of God’s being and disposition came in the form of a physical, human presence.” – GORDON S. MIKOSKI*