

LITANY OF VOICES

Voice #1 - Growing up, church was having a community of people who were supporting me. It was less about my individual experience...

Voice #2 – I want to go to church to have a group of people who are your family who are there with you... People you can explore your faith with. I want people who I can experience God with.

Voice #3 – it's definitely about the community. Strip the pews down and talk around a table. Sitting in the pews felt like a chore.

Voice #4 – What I am looking for in worship has to do with community – people who want to be together, a more intimate setting

Voice #5 – Maybe worship isn't just about what happens in a church worship service. Maybe its about being out there with the community and spending time in conversation with people and serving in a garden in your neighborhood...

Voice #6 - Right now, it's history and comfort that draws me back to the church where I grew up. But then I look around and say, "I don't really like this, there's no one my age." Sometimes, it's way too cheesy. People are more putting on a show... I'm looking for something more real. I'm wondering what is really going on with people.

Voice # 7 - I don't think church is a place you can go... Is the goal getting people to come to church?

Voice #1 – For a while, I was connected, it was a very open-minded environment... it was very accepting. Then, I got turned off at a bible study when my bible study leader said that I just needed to pray more for my gay friends... and I felt shunned by the group. That didn't make sense to me.

Voice #2 - One of my issues with organized religion is the fact that I constantly have to defend my personal faith. I will shut down if people say to me – "you have to believe this particular thing" I don't want to be forced into a Box and I want to be able to be accepted just as I am.

Voice #3 - I love being able to worship in any ways – but Christianity has roots – and I don't want to be afraid to identify with a particular Christian tradition – I want someone who is provocative and thoughtful who is really wanting to talk about some real things. Can things be open without losing who we are?

Voice #4 - I feel like we don't focus enough on people's personal lives... things they are dealing with. I wish we could speak about things that normally wouldn't be said in a worship service.

Voice #5 - Even though I lead a Christian life, I haven't called myself a Christian in a long time. It's hard for me to say I'm a Christian because it feels like I'm saying all beliefs are false. I don't have enough faith to say that. I have a hard time saying that my religion is right and wrong

Voice #6 – I want to be able to say what I’m really thinking and feeling. Without any fear of judgment.

Voice #7 – A place where people felt comfortable to be vulnerable / they could say what they really wanted to say – not what they thought other people wanted to hear.

Voice #1 – What’s important to me – is the freedom to move and to be in the way that fits where I am on the journey...

Voice #2 – Honesty

Voice #3 – Openness

Voice #4 – Someone who will REALLY listen, even if I say something they don’t agree with.

Voice #5 – Meaning

Voice #6 – Relevance, something that actually has to do with my life.

Voice #7 – Community

ALL TOGETHER – I’m longing for worship

Voice #1 – It might happen on Sunday morning

Voice #2 – It might happen over coffee

Voice #3 – My worship might look different than yours. For me, music gives me the space to be vulnerable in a different way.

Voice #4 – I have met God in a new way this year as my church has challenged me to grapple with issues of poverty. I want worship that will challenge me... to look beyond myself to what God is calling me to do.

Voice #5 - I remember worshipping at a mass in Mexico with 325 people in a room that only fit about 75. I was surrounded by people who felt like they could be who they were... there were no masks. I want to be able to bring myself into worship in that kind of way.

Voice #6 – I just want to feel connected. To others and to God.

Voice #7 – I want to meet God

ALL TOGETHER – I’m longing for worship