

Presence and the Profane

**One Story that
Leads to Jesus**



The Presence of God

■ How present?

“When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden”
(Gen 3:8)

- God seems to have taken an later afternoon stroll in Eden
- A daily encounter with God?
- But after sin, Adam and Eve are expelled from the Eden

■ Presence Lost

“The LORD God banished him from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken. He expelled the man, stationing the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword east of the garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life.”
(Gen 3:23-24)

- No intimate presence
- Notice: tree of life!
- Stories of Noah and Abraham – there are encounters with God, but... presence to the people?

The Temple – Covenant

■ New Testament

“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”But he was speaking about the temple of his body” (John 2:19-21)

- This understanding of “temple” and the presence of God!
- Catholic understanding of the Real Presence in the Eucharist
- Church architecture, esp. in Eastern Rites

■ Jerusalem Temples

- First Temple – Solomon; destroyed by Babylon 586 BC - Modeled on Tabernacle

“Then the glory of the LORD left the threshold of the temple (Ezek 10:18)

- Second Temple – 516 BC, enhanced by Herod the Great, destroyed 70 AD by Rome – never rebuilt

■ Tent of Meeting / Tabernacle

- Described in Exodus
- Ark of the Covenant / Holy of Holies
- Presence of God

Presence-Temple-Holy

■ The Burning Bush

“God called out from the bush: Moses! Moses! He answered, “Here I am.” God said: Do not come near! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”
(Ex 3:4-5)

- God drawing near to his people (*theophany*)
- Covenant promise
- Holiness – key theme connected to restoring “Eden and the intimate walk with God”

■ Mt. Sinai

- From Heaven now come down to the Top of Mt. Sinai

*“Then the LORD called to him from the mountain... Now, if you obey me completely and keep my **covenant**, you will be my treasured possession among all peoples, though all the earth is mine. You will be to me a kingdom of priests, a **holy** nation (Ex 19:3,5-6)*

■ Tent of Meeting / Tabernacle

- God draws closer: Ark of the Covenant / Holy of Holies
- Presence of God journeying with the people.

Profane – Outside the Temple

Presence and the Profane

**One Story that
Leads to Jesus**

