

# CONNECTING

## Connected to a Common Place

August 16, 2026 | Rev. Shane Bengry

### THE ANCIENT TEMPLE MODEL

What comes to mind when you think of a **holy place**?

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### JESUS CREATES A SHIFT

**Matthew 16:18-19** - Jesus says, "...on this rock I will build my church..." The church Jesus builds is not merely a building or address.

#### The Church as Movement, Not Location

*Ekklesia* - an assembly or gathering of people around a shared identity and purpose.

### A TEMPLE MADE OF PEOPLE

**Acts 7:48-49** - "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands... 'What kind of house will you build for me?' says the Lord."

**1 Corinthians 3:16** - "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?"

**Ephesians 2:19-22** - We are "fellow citizens" and members of God's household, "being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

### THE CHURCH PROBLEM

#### What's a Kirche?

Over time, our word *church* came to describe both the gathered people and the physical building. How might that shape the way we think about church?

### WHEN THE CHURCH BECOMES A PEOPLE INSTEAD OF A PLACE:

- God is Approachable.
- God is Portable.
- God is Wild.
- People are Sacred.

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

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**Wherever the people of Jesus are connected and doing the work of Jesus -  
that's where you'll find the church.**

**Don't seek somewhere to go to church.  
Be the church somewhere.**