

Awaken to God's Presence: Dwelling World Conference

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Zion, Christ, emotions, conference, sing, reflect, practice, peace, dwelling, recognize, bless

SPEAKERS

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Joelle Wight 00:00

The gift of peace in the midst of troubling times. Project Zion Podcast offers this series of guided practices to help you connect with the divine. No matter where you are, and what's going on around you. Take a deep breath and allow your Spirit to find calm in the storm of life.

Tyler Marz 00:28

Hi, this is Tyler Mars Community of Christ minister and spiritual companion. Part of my journey is finding the divine in everyday life. Today, I invite you to join me in a practice of dwelling.

On a recent visit to Independence, Missouri, I drove past the Auditorium. A building whose construction began over 90 years ago, and has been in use almost as long. It's witnessed countless significant events in the life of the church.

In today's practice, I hope that we can figuratively dwell in the beauty of that history, the lives that were touched, the music and hymns that were sung, and the many historical moments that will no doubt follow.

Take a deep breath and rest in a comfortable position. Or if movement is helpful for you while we engage in this practice, I invite you to take a short walk.

As always, if you find your mind beginning to wander, that is okay. Just gently bring your focus back to your breath.

As I visualize the conference chamber, I'm immediately drawn to the glimmering pipes of the organ. I reminisce over the many hymns that have been sung, a unity of voice. The skilled fingers of musicians over the years who have blessed us.

I look at the sea of gray seats. The generations of people from all across the globe who have sat in them, bringing their experience, their knowledge, their love.

I see the blue oval of light overhead. Casting a gentle azure glow.

I notice the church seal flanking both the left and right sides of the platform. An important symbol for our church, one of peace for over 150 years.

I reflect upon the saints gathered for conference, where important announcements and significant legislation was deliberated over.

These walls and countless people heard word as we announced that a temple would be constructed and dedicated to the pursuit of peace.

I think of the many church leaders sustained and ordained with a commitment to serve and bless, love and to nurture this faith we call home.

I reflect on the many resolutions...

The ordination of women to priesthood, recognizing their innate giftedness and that they are equally called to the work of ordained ministry.

Or when our church name changed to match our identity more fully, Community of Christ

I can almost hear the fervent voices united in song as we sing, "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning," accompanied by our grand organ. Singing and shouting with the armies of heaven! A hymn that stretches back to the earliest days of our church. A legacy of testimony through song.

Many of us have hopes and aspirations for the future of church. I invite you to ponder those for a moment.

No doubt many of those events will take place in this sacred space.

Coming legislation presented at World Conference might have us feeling a variety of emotions: nervousness, frustration, joy, or hope perhaps.

I invite you to bring those emotions to the forefront.

What about them is causing the emotion?

However tumultuous or joyous those emotions may be, know that God is accompanying you through this.

Let us remember the blessing it is to have such a diverse body of membership and friends, and that our worries are cared for equally.

May we be filled with grace for ourselves and for others. May we recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit as it breathes through us -- a prophetic people.

I invite you as we end this dwelling to reflect on these words from Doctrine and Covenants:

Beloved Community of Christ. Do not just speak and sing of Zion. Live, love and share as Zion: those who strive to be visibly one in Christ. (165:5a adapted)

May we strive to be one in Christ through how we live, who we love, and what we share.

Blessings to you this day and always.