

"Do I belong?" A Dramatic Reading of Ephesians 2:11-22

In three voices plus congregational response.

Reader 1 is at the lecturn.

Reader 2 begins up in the pulpit (or somewhere up the front of the church) and slowly steps closer to Reader 3.

Reader 3 starts at the back of the church and walks toward the front during the reading, so that by the last verse the 2 are standing side by side.

(Teach refrain)

Reader 1 There is a response in this reading. When I say "Christ is our peace"
 we all say together "We are one in Christ".
 Christ is our peace.

All: We are one in Christ.

Reader 1 Remember a time when you were without Christ,
 aliens to the covenant of promise,
 when you had no hope,
 when for you the world was empty of God.
 Christ is our peace.

All: We are one in Christ.

Reader 2 I can't remember a time when I felt alien here.
 This is my place, my home.
 I'm comfortable here.
 I know the people, I even like most of them!
 Everyone is welcome here.

*Reader 3 Hello!? What is this place? Who are these people?
 I'm different from them, my clothes are wrong,
 I don't know the words, I don't know the actions.
 I can't fit in here, I could never belong.*

Reader 1 But now in Christ you who once were far away
 have been brought near by the death of Jesus on the cross.
 Christ is our peace.

All: We are one in Christ.

Reader 2 You, there, you're scruffy, you're tough,
 you look like trouble to me!
 We want trouble, we don't do conflict here!

*Reader 3 I'm tired of arguments, beaten down by hostile stares
 Could I find a peaceful space?
 Could I rest in a quiet place?*

Reader 1 In his own flesh Jesus broke down the hostility between us.
 The dividing wall came crumbling down.
 Christ is our peace.

All: We are one in Christ.

Reader 2 Come in, you are welcome.
I don't know you but I'd like to.

*Reader 3 Thank you for your welcome.
Maybe you're not so different from me.*

Reader 1 Christ came and proclaimed peace,
to you who were far off and to you who were near.
Now all are welcome,
in one Spirit, to come to the Father
Christ is our peace.

All: We are one in Christ.

Reader 2 I try so hard, I do my best
to keep the peace and carry the load.
Could I just be me? Can I belong just for who I am?

*Reader 3 I try so hard, I do my best
I don't have much to offer.
Could I just be me? Can I belong just for who I am?*

Reader 1 You are no longer strangers.
No more are you alien!
You, and you, and you, are citizens in this Kingdom,
members of the household
built on Jesus Christ himself, the cornerstone.
Christ is our peace.

All: We are one in Christ.