

Note taking Guide
3 Lent A
Is the Lord among Us or Not?

I. How do we prove there is a God or even that God is with us?

A. The 19th century natural philosopher, William Paley deduced the watchmaker analogy by examining the very design of a watch - its purpose and parts point to an intelligent designer.

B. An 11th century monk named Anselm sought to prove the existence of God in reality and not just the mind when he wrote that "God is that than which nothing greater can be conceived."

C. In the Roman letter the apostle Paul writes this verse: *God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*

1. Paul argues for the existence of love in the world. And he uses the argument: "For what are you willing to die?"

2. Proof there is love – the sacrificial love that is willing to put others first though they are not worthy of such a sacrifice. If there is love in the world then there must be a God. Is this proof enough for us?

II. What convinces you of God's reality in your life?

III. Did you receive a sense of His love through people who love Him? Who?

IV. Might it be that your response to God in prayer brings the reality of His presence closer to you? How?

A. Priest and author, Christopher Webber has written, “The only way you can really get to know God is through prayer, and the Prayer Book sets out a pattern that has been used by saints and sinners for centuries. No other book will give you as much help in building your faith.”

B. The prayer book states (pg. 856) that prayer is “responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.”

C. There are three strands of prayer in the BCP.

1. The Eucharist
2. The Daily Office
3. Private prayer
4. All three forms of prayer unite, shape and enable us as a people of God to experience the mystery of our Maker.

V. “Is the Lord among us or not?”

A. The Israelites had a prophet, named Moses, given by God to guide them.

B. They had to trust God and Moses to get them through the hard times.

C. They had not yet developed a sense of God’s presence in the whole of life.

D. This book of prayers seeks to develop in us that practice of God’s presence everyday. *“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...”*