

Welcome to Fellowship



THE RELATIONAL PRESENCE OF GOD

Christmas Offering



Welcome to Fellowship



THE RELATIONAL PRESENCE OF GOD

God's Design

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God With Us



Genesis 1:1-2

God's Design

Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God With Us



Genesis 1:26-27

God's Design

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

God With Us



Genesis 2:7-8

God's Design

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

God With Us



Genesis 2:15-17

God's Design

But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

God With Us



Genesis 2:20-22

God's Design

“The story is told in a way that will underline the tremendous blessing that God confers on Adam and Eve. They aren't just given mere existence but a rich and vital life in the very presence of God.”

God With Us



Tremper Longman III

God's Desire

“..the Triune God desires a personal relationship with His people and so makes his presence known to establish and cultivate this relationship. In other words, this relational presence of God lies at the heart of the Bible's overall message, at the heart of biblical theology.”

God With Us



Duvall/Hayes p.325

God's Desire

Panim is one of the most prolific words in the Hebrew Bible. It shows up over 2100 times and it is translated as face, but also as *presence, surface, front, before and countenance.*

God With Us



HWL

God's Desire

But the word *face* is profoundly significant, because it's a key theme that ribbons through the Bible, from the beginning in Genesis, when we were exiled from God's Presence (Face) in the Garden of Eden, to the very end in the Book of Revelation, when we become reunited with YHWH's face in the garden.

God With Us



HWL

God's Desire

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

God With Us



Numbers 6:24-26

God's Desire

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

God With Us



Genesis 3:8

God's Desire

The man called his wife's name Eve,
because she was the mother of all living.
And the Lord God made for Adam and for
his wife garments of skins and clothed
them.

God With Us



Genesis 3:20-21

God's Desire

Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me. Then the Lord said to him, Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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Genesis 4:14-16

God's Desire

God's relational presence begins in the garden and is woven through time culminating in His presence with us for eternity.

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Next Steps:

What one thing will you do this Advent season to experience God's presence in your daily life?

What distraction do you need to remove to focus solely on Christ?

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