

Reflections on the Use of Silence in the Liturgy

12/16/01

We are experimenting with silence at the Sunday Eucharist. There are two primary places in the liturgy where we are inviting ourselves to be silent & still.

1. Before we begin
2. After the sermon

Wanting more silence in our worship was a clear desire by those at a recent congregational development session. The issue is how to offer this to each other in away that is most useful. We will continue with this exploration through Christmas and into Epiphany. At that time we will look at what has been learned.

Please offer your initial thoughts.

1. I do like the idea of more silence in the liturgy

Not at all	1	2	3	4	5	6	Very Much
			/		/	//// //// //	

2. My overall satisfaction with the silence before the Eucharist is ..

Very low	1	2	3	4	5	6	Very High
			/	/	/	//// //// /	

3. My overall satisfaction with the silence after the sermon is ...

Very Low	1	2	3	4	5	6	Very High
	/			//	/	//// //// //	

4. What I need to do for myself to make better use of the silence is -
- Continue to improve my prayer agility - Relax - Pray - better concentration - the silence helps - concentrate

5. What the vicar could do to help me make better use of the silence is -
- you're fine - shorten it slightly - keep silent - a bit longer might be nice - nothing; I think it is a period of silence for use as each wants

6. Check items that are true for you:

 / I'm not sure how long the silences are going to be

 I'm disturbed by the noise coming from the outside or by others in the church

 // I have a difficult time not feeling anxious during the silence
- not feeling depressed

Other comments: - 2 minutes seems just right -two people were unaware that there was a silence at the beginning of the Eucharist