



With or Without God

The Rev. Gretta Vosper

Why the Way We Live is More Important than What We Believe



With God: The Way We Were

The story of the god called God is a rich one. For millennia, it has been shared around tables, in religious houses and gathering places, on street corners, and before the lights go out at bedtime. It has created community, drawing together those who shared a common understanding of it. And it has split community as interpretations have divided those who call themselves believers, the details and the fine print building walls and destroying relationships.

Why have we told it? How have we nurtured it? What has it come to mean?

Without God: Are We Who We Say We Are?

The language of faith is shared in our liturgies, rituals, hymns, and sacred objects. We steep ourselves in it when we enter our places of worship. We recognize it when we hear and see it in the common space of our neighborhoods. And we use it to find that place within ourselves where we explore the questions of values, meaning, and purpose in our lives.

What do words mean and how are they used? What creates sacred space and what does “sacred space” even mean to us?

With or Without God: Community without Barriers

Over the course of the last 15 years, the community of West Hill United in Toronto, Canada, a liberal congregation planted in the urban expansion of the 1950s, stretched itself beyond belief. It was exhilarating and innovative, exploratory and experimental. And, at times, it got downright ugly.

What does it take to shift community beyond belief? Why should a congregation even bother to do it? And if there is no community to begin with, why would you want one, could you create one, and if so, what would it take?