

# Introduction to Becoming a Community in Mission (CiM)



# Welcome & Introduction

Street Psalms frees leaders to love and serve in the shape of a Community in Mission (CiM).

- We have an Incarnational Framework and have built a suite of written resources to cultivate that vision.
  - CiM - describes this vision. Other resources (some forthcoming) flesh this out: Hermeneutic, Methodology, and Design.
- Many other formats - workshops, lectionary resources, initiatives. All are designed to help CiMs come alive in their efforts to free up others.



# Focus Today

Introduce the foundational concepts and practices that give rise to CiMs and sustain them overtime.



# What is a CiM?

*“A community in mission is a group that has a large enough mission to call forth community, and a strong enough community to sustain the mission. A community without mission is self-absorption. Mission without community is unsustainable. A community in mission is life-giving and transformational when modeled after the life of Christ.”*

- Jack Fortin



# Why a CiM?

- Current state of our communities and world - fragmentation, polarization, disintegrating social fabric.
- CiMs imagine themselves...
  - **not** as the provider of religious goods and services to passive consumers, but rather
  - as gathering those who are actively undergoing a gospel that frees them to love and serve.
- This vision re-energizes, re-members, and re-centers the faith community to become a living example that **models the very reason it exists.**

# Today's Workshop

- **Part 1: Ekklesia for the Sake of the Polis**  
*Jesus' life example as our theological grounding.*
- **Part 2: A Baptismal Journey**  
*The liberating process of switching one's organizational "operating system" from one of sacrifice to one of mercy.*
- **Part 3: A Eucharistic Practice**  
*That which enables CiMs to engage the baptismal journey and sustains CiMs to participate in the ongoing act of co-creation.*
- **Epilogue Warning, Concluding Thoughts and Next Steps**

# Part 1: Ekklesia for the Sake of the Polis

Jesus' life models the vision that we gather for the sake of the community. Therefore, as members of CiMs, we ...

- are missioned into being where we “make the road by walking.”
- become fully alive in the shape of our own lives.
- seek flourishing for all humankind.
- honor the conscience of all its members; it opens us up to the other.
- participate in the ongoing act of co-creation, unlocking it from within through the receiving and giving of forgiveness.

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Consider the CiM you most closely identify with or belong to.

1. Where have you experienced the type of CiM that is being envisioned here?
2. How do you hear the invitation to participate in the ongoing work of co-creation?





## Part 2: A Baptismal Journey

- All organizations have “operating systems” that have assumptions, values, and narratives (often unconscious).
  - Two basic types: Powered by a “spiritual technology” that fundamentally holds a **God of violence** or a **God in whom there is no violence**.
  - → **System of Sacrifice** or **System of Mercy**.
- Switching from a System of Sacrifice to Mercy requires a **baptismal journey**.
  - “Letting go” (dying to the old way) “letting come” (rising to the new way).
- **Incarnational Framework** - describes some of the paradigm shifts that are part of this baptismal journey (e.g, Seeing with abundance rather than scarcity).



# Discussion Questions

1. How have you experienced “systems of sacrifice” or “systems of mercy” in your community or groups to which you belong?
2. In order to more fully become a system of mercy, what would your CiM need to let go of or die to? What barriers do you anticipate?



## Part 3: A Eucharistic Practice

We become what we receive. In the eucharistic meal we are ...

- **Taken:** Relax into our belovedness; we recall that we are loved and liked by God.
- **Blessed:** To know the heart of God which is mercy.
- **Broken:** God is the victim who forgives; we are therefore able to do likewise and be freed from the fear, wrath, shame, etc. that bind us.
- **Given:** We are given new life and missioned into being.
- **Spoken:** We receive ourselves as ones who are taken, blessed, broken, and given in love that we might become the spoken word of God's love in a hurting world.



# Small Group Discussion Questions

Think about the 5 courses of the eucharistic meal: taken, blessed, broken, given, and spoken.

1. What practices do you have that help to move you through these courses?
2. Consider your community, the one you desire to grow as a CiM. How does participation in these courses sustain you to participate in co-creation?



# Epilogue Warning

CiMs: Designed so that everyone belongs without “othering.”

By contrast, Jesus’ example:

- does not need a scapegoat or an “other” to survive.
- models for us a spirituality that calls forth personal transformation as well as systemic change. **Both are necessary.**

Warning: Don’t take ourselves too seriously.



# Concluding Thoughts and Next Steps

## Resources:

- [www.streetpsalms.org/cim](http://www.streetpsalms.org/cim) for CiM document

## Upcoming Opportunities:

- Join rhythms: [www.streetpsalms.org/hub](http://www.streetpsalms.org/hub)
- The Commons: 4th Wednesday of every month
  - November 27, 8:00am PST (UTC -8)
- Next workshop: Forgiving Victim Series, Part 1; Jan 16, 8:00-9:30am PST (UTC -8); open to all, especially useful for Preaching Peace Facilitator Table participants

Thank You!

