

SERMON NOTES

PASTOR WILLIAM V. GREEN

The mission of our church is
“We use our resources, tangible
and intangible, to minimize
human suffering and enhance
human well-being.
This is godliness to us.”

A Boutique Congregation *Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-23*

Matthew 13:33 and Luke 13:20–21 *“Jesus also said: The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a woman mixes a little yeast into three big batches of flour. Finally, all the dough rises.”*

The 5 Ways We Became A Boutique Congregation:

Listening: *Attending to God, one another, and our neighborhoods.*

Discerning: *Discovering where the Holy Spirit is inviting us to join with God in our actions.*

Testing: *Engaging, simple actions to join God in the life of our members and community.*

Reflecting: *Gathering to ask, what did we do? What are we learning? Where did we see God at work?*

Deciding: *What are the new ways we will join in with God in the lives of others?*

1. *Celebration strengthens identity. We remember that our uniqueness is our calling. Celebration helps us say: We are exactly who God formed us to be.*

2. *Celebration builds courage for the next season. Our handcrafted past gives confidence to take the next intentional step.*

3. *Celebration honors God’s craftsmanship. We are not celebrating ourselves; we are celebrating God who has shaped us, sustained us, and curated us.*

4. *We have resisted cultural Christianity. Celebration matters because it honors the courage it takes to be faithful when culture pushes you toward sameness.*

5. *We created safe spaces long before naming it. People find refuge here. You made room for difference and cultivated environments where people could breathe.*

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6. We hold space for complexity. We honored unchosen stories and complicated lives. Tabernacle of Glory no longer demands that people be simple, easy, or uniformed.

7. We remained faithful through transitions. There are changes, cultural shifts, and community needs but through all of it, Tabernacle stayed steady.

8. We honored God's craftsmanship. People are not treated as categories but as creations.

This boutique identity is not only for the congregation; it is for every individual here.

Stop comparing yourself to others.

Stop measuring your worth by someone else's calling.

Stop shrinking your story to fit someone else's mold.

Celebrate your story.

Celebrate your scars.

Celebrate your survival.

Celebrate your becoming.

Celebrate your growth — the quiet ways God has shaped you.

Celebrate your gifts — the ones only you carry.

Celebrate your difference — the distinction God designed on purpose.

Celebrate your journey — every step that brought you here.

Celebrate your identity — your God-crafted uniqueness.