

Reimagining Church

Session 4: Changing world, changing church

Rowan Williams: “the mixed economy church: **both** inherited church **and** fresh expressions of church.”
Each kind will connect with different people.

Changing world, changing church

The story of Vincent Donovan, pioneer missionary to the Maasai, as told in *Christianity Rediscovered* (1978).

The story of Pat Patten, as told in *The Missionary Letters of Vincent Donovan* (2010).

Liquid church

If the church is like water: What is the H₂O? What is the container?
What is essential? A building? A pipe organ? A bishop? Liturgy? Social justice?
The container is changeable, the H₂O is not.

Mark 1:13: to be **with Jesus** and to be **sent out**.

A proposal: Four characteristics:

- A community of followers of Jesus
 - Gathered for Word and Sacrament
 - Committed to serving in the world
 - Linked to the wider church
- **One** (an “In” dimension: community)
 - **Holy** (an “Up” dimension: worship)
 - **Catholic** (an “Of” dimension: connection)
 - **Apostolic** (an “Out” dimension: mission)

Bible study: Isaiah 43:14-21

God is always the God of new things.

Three examples of fresh expressions of church:

Night Shift; Cameron House; and Somewhere Else.

Merciful God, creator of the peoples on earth and lover of souls, have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your son Jesus Christ. Let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it, turn the hearts of those who resist it, and bring home to your flock those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Solemn Collect for Good Friday

