- Misdiagnosed the problem
  - "we don't have enough… people, money, importance
  - *Wrong*: size = success + blessing
- Secular age: we divide secular v. sacred, public v. private, immanence v. transcendence
- The solution is NOT "effective innovation"
- Pastor's job is to pay attention and look for what God is already doing in the church, then help the church see it
- Waiting is NOT:
  - doing nothing
  - Alone
- Waiting IS:
  - For God to act
  - Trust in the (sometimes) slow work of God
- What *should* we measure?
  - Einstein: "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."
- The church is 'along for the ride,' not the heroes
- The church starts in Acts 1 with waiting, not in Acts 2
  - While waiting, we attend to the connections and people in front of us
  - Paul: waited 14 years after being blinded. He was formed in the incubation
  - While we wait, God is acting all around, in all parts, preparing all things
- "we can only know God in hindsight"
- The opposite of MORE is RESONANCE
  - It is a huge leap for us to live for resonance rather than relevance
    - Think Mr. Rogers vs jaded journalist
- We have trauma-informed language/triggers; instead, look for 'glimmers': goosebump times of coherence and presence
- We are called to bless things, to acknowledge and speak out their inherent sacredness
- Kingdom of God sightings: attend and train ourselves to notice
- Sabbath: receiving and paying attention, which brings gratitude. Sharing sabbath experiences expands the gratitude
- Jim's reflection: all of the 'distractions' may actually be calling us to notice people (and places) that need to be loved and brought to prayer
- We, and the church, don't exist for ourselves, we exist for the world: to help the world live more connected to God and to each other
- "the church is the only institution that exists for its non-members"
- Kara's "accidental silent retreat" with the Brothers: initially thought a waste of a powerful community, but recognizing that they exist to be in prayer for the world
- "Once something is prayed for, it never remains quite the same."
  - Prayer is not "nothing" – but a "stance of least resistance"
- Our big fear is that we will wait and God won't act

- o Faith = trusting that God will do as God has promised, to complete the work
- ALL WE HAVE IS THIS MOMENT, WITH THESE PEOPLE: be present, attending to connections
- Practice of communion (LNPC): look around, savor the moment
- Acknowledge that waiting with holy indifference is HARD: what if the thing I really hold dear has to fall away? Can we be willing to say "yes" to God, *whatever* it is?
- Discernment process: getting to "holy indifference": the place of 'whatever'
    - o There is grief in change and letting go
- To sacrifice something is to make it holy by giving it away for love.
- Take time to grieve and let people *feel*: it is a need
- People don't fear change, they fear loss
    - o Eg: Coffee with Kara photos: how many people are gone in the past 5 years
- You'll blame the new and not be ready if you don't get to grieve the loss
- We can have compassion on others when we see through [recognize?] the lens of the secular age
- In the loneliest times ever, connection and community are needed
- Jamie Schultz: came to a powerful meeting entrenched and ready to fight, as did another, then they connected over caring for daughters in crisis
- LaMott: "You know you've created God in your image when God hates all the people you do."
- We are not the sum of our [political/moral] positions
- Arguing points doesn't change people's minds; relationships do, graciousness does
- If we refuse to have enemies, we see a broader horizon
    - o What if we lived 'refusing to have enemies'?
    - o Expansiveness, laughter, joy, delight
- Lens: "What might God do today?" "God has a surprise for you" – this is the 'daily bread' God provides *every day.*
- We fill our lives, are so busy, there is no room for surprise, no 'margin'
- We wait communally, and share
- (Insomnia: maybe God wants you to be praying for someone?)