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Intr. To Racial Reconciliation

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Date 3/01/2023

CHURCH VISIT AND REFLECTION

I love Churches because they belong to Christ Jesus. In a statement from the Lord, I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mat. 16:18). Matthew wrote the statement after Peter declared that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. Therefore, I am excited whenever I visit a church other than my home church. One of the churches I love is the Episcopal Church. They are magnificent in size and splendor in beauty. The liturgy is traditional, and some of my home church practice are derived from them. In this paper, I will discuss my Church visit and reflection.

I attended virtually St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Church is located at 199 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231. A Catholic Priest argued that the Church would generally have a confession session for about one hour before the service begins. Confession sessions were not displayed because it was supposed to be private. They would generally have a booth where you can hear the Priest talking but not see the person talking to you. The conversation is confidential. The Church is big and majestic, which is evident by looking at the Church from the outside and inside. The episcopal service lasts about an hour and 30 minutes. This service feels a lot longer than it is. A lot is being done in the amount of time that they have. It seems that the Church is doing something they repeatedly do.

The beginning of the service at the Episcopal Church is somewhat spectacular. The Priest in charge gave an announcement and instructions before the service began. The technician

controlling the visual did an excellent job with the camera and the sound system. It looks spectacular. It looks and feels like a place of Worship. The intentionality of the site and the architect's work is finery.

The Church did nothing concerning racial reconciliation. There is a pattern in most churches in America. They do not acknowledge race or as if this problem existed. African Americans are the minority in that Church. However, I do not know if the leaders tried to change that. The question must be answered whether the leaders wished to see more African American come to their churches. Let us assume that they want more African Americans to come to the Church, then what has been done to attack them? Let me go into detail about what I acknowledge in the service.

I observe 12 people entering the Church from the back in two columns and one person upfront holding the Cross. These people are church officials and worship leaders. The officials' robes are magnificent, and the ceremonial aspect of the service looks formal and special. The architecture of the building is majestic. The service from the camera on the computer seems perfect. It is attractive to those who love the formal style of liturgy.

The person upfront lifts the Cross high as they sing. The Priest was at the end of the line. After the entrance, they all find their seat on the pulpit. It is clear that it is not just males on the leadership serving upfront; there were females with different ethnic on the pulpit participating in the Worship. However, black people are the minority in the worship team and the attendance in that Church. The majority of the people that lead the Worship are Caucasians. I can count that one black female was sitting on the worship team. The flow of the worship service was perfect throughout the ceremony.

It is essential that when attending Church, it is all about God. The service needs to reflect the character of God as well. There is so much on repletion and rehearsal in the service. However, other things seem more important than repetition. Do we create an environment where all people can come and worship God in this Church? The Church belongs to Jesus Christ (Matt. 16: 18). It does not belong to the Priest, Pastor, or a group; it only belongs to Jesus.

Racial reconciliation is more urgent than I imagine. According to scripture, we must clearly communicate the action we want to see. A better way to put it is to let us see race from the Eyes of God. And at the same time, do not forget what happened in the past. In theory, those who believe in Jesus are all identified as Christians. However, in practice, they do not. Jesus's Prayer in John seventeen was for us to be one in practice. Imagine that we all believe in an approach that we are brothers and sisters. I will strive for this experience; if I do not achieve it now, I will die trying.