



## Being There

Has the Pandemic instilled in us new habits that have devalued the importance of being in church to worship. Has the frequency with which you would rather watch streaming of a service, increased, rather than get back into the habit of going to church and being there?

Not being in church on a Sunday morning for worship was a foreign idea to me growing up the son of a congregational Christian minister. I was unaware of how instilled that habit was until attending church was not an option. For so long we worshipped in our living rooms, then it was attending worship service scattered, with no singing, and always with masks. Now we can attend church services, almost as we have done in the past, but for the most part masks are still required. It feels better and maybe it is better. Being there is good.

In a recent [Our Daily Bread](#) the question was raised, "Why do we go to church?" The answers to that question were many and varied, but one that struck a responsive chord came from author [Kathleen Norris](#). She tells of a response she received from a pastor to that question. He said, "We go to church for other people. Because someone may need you there."

Very recently, travel and circumstance have prevented me from attending worship, in church. Devotionals, Scripture and prayer helps, but it is not the same. My church is struggling and many of those we thought were part of our congregation over the years, seem to worship elsewhere. Something vital is missing in their absence.

That pastor's response to the question is what the writer of Hebrews was communicating. He urged believers to persevere in faith and not to give up meeting

together. He reasoned that their presence would encourage one another toward love and good fellowship.

We should not miss the spiritual power of being there. A big part of worship is the congregation, the fellowship, people encouraging one another in our mutual faith. Never underestimate the importance of your presence to others ... and to yourself. Amen.

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This essay was the Meditation in Stan Escott's [Watchword](#) for December 3, 2021. The content of Watchwords is written from inspiration born of Scripture, devotional readings and reflection. Each post is meant to encourage and give you a sense of peace in these troubled times. To explore Watchwords or sign up for the mailings, visit [bosworth30.com/watchwords/](https://bosworth30.com/watchwords/).