

Faithless' "A Kind of Peace" is a song about **sacramental peace**. Since it is by Faithless, an artist usually associated with the club, dance, and house scene, that context should influence how this song is explored. *Before listening to this song, imagine yourself in a club setting, surrounded by crowds, maybe sweat in the air from dancing, a continual beat of music. The club could be named something like "Sanctuary," "Angel," or "Sacred."*

Then this song plays. The lyrics take the listener away from the crowds into a wide, open, and vast place. "Here in the darkness, under a starless sky." There is a sense of affirmation given to those solitary moments, that even in this crowd it is okay to go away for a while to be alone. Peace is tied in with a somewhat archaic image, that of an empty church during off-hours. The image of a church invokes a sacramental quality to the "kind of peace" experienced in the song. This peace is somehow larger than ourselves. Our hearts are a sacred place within us, a place to find comfort and peace. The isolation of dark, starless skies and high-vaulted church ceilings contrasts with a comforted heart that is able to sweep away debris and dance. Stillness and dance, vastness and intimacy: this is a strange kind of peace.

what is a sacrament?

A thing of mysterious and sacred significance; a religious symbol.

An outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual divine grace.

The ordinary made sacred.

SACRAMENTAL KEY THEMES

• *An invocation of the sacred at the present moment* • *Invoking religious artistry and tradition as a symbol of the unseen* • *Partaking in this sacrament imbues a quality not present in everyday life.*

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

How could this song relate to the ritual Passing of the Peace?

The peace in this song is separated from crowds of people; What might a fellowship look like where deep, sacramental peace is available?

Do our churches provide peace?

Do you see a tension between the images of dancing with the solitude of an empty church?

Where is God in this song?

Why is this peace strange?

Relate this song to the idea of a "peace that passeth all understanding."

What does a model of traditional, belief-based church offer to the person in this song?

What model of church might appeal to the person in this song?

In relationship to the legacy of Christendom, has the Church left a positive impression on the singer? What has the Church left that Faithless has appropriated and appreciated?

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

Activity

Take a few moments to make the meeting place as peaceful and silent as possible.

Attempt to pass the Peace in different styles: silently, joyously, raucously, with different movements or even dancing!

Scripture

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." *Philippians. 4:6-8*

"When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." *Revelation 8:1*

"I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." *Psalms 4:8*

"The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever." *Isaiah 32:17*