

Robert Aguero  
Pledge talk 11/12/2023

Hello, my name is Robert Aguero. My wife is Alexis and our kids are Asaph and Ruth.

Alexis and I give because we have a mutual belief that giving beyond what is comfortable is an essential part of our faith. We appreciate that tithing is one of these mysteries, working in different ways in different seasons, but always keeping us grounded in our reliance on Christ, reminding us that everything we have is from God and for Him, and planting us not only in the hope of God's care for us but also in the partaking of God's care for his church and those in need both locally and globally.

So that's why we give in general, but why to incarnation specifically— or how have we come to call this place our spiritual home?

Alexis and I were both raised in non-religious families with nominally Catholic backgrounds. We both had dramatic evangelical conversion experiences when we were young, Alexis in high school and me in college.

In our twenties we were faithful church members first on the Central Coast where we went to school and then here in Santa Rosa after getting married. In 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic, we became parents. As we started our new family and wanted to learn about how to faithfully follow Jesus as a family unit, we surprisingly found our values no longer aligning with the evangelical church we were members at. After a year and a half of struggling and trying to reconcile our differences, we decided to leave that church with no clear destination of where we would be next.

Being new parents with no family context of faith we were both longing for more rhythmic spiritual practice and contemplative expression of faith to help meet us in the shorter attention span we now had as new parents. We could no longer engage with a 45-minute sermon as the spiritual high point of our week.

As we were looking for something new in our spiritual experience, we both found ourselves drawn to Anglicanism and the approach of not holding too tightly to dogmatic issues. We found Incarnation and my first service was Trinity Sunday 2021. There were a lot of differences from the church experiences we knew, but something felt familiar at the same time. We found ourselves drawn to the contemplative spirituality offered in the liturgy, the consistency of the Eucharist, and have been attending ever since and we're so grateful for this community and all the folks and families that make up this body who we've gotten to know and continue to know. And so we give to incarnation because what was a landing pad for an unexpected transitional time in our lives has become a new spiritual home where we can experience God's love and character in new and refreshing, yet ancient and holy ways.