

Historical Critique Assignment

PM302 A Worship and Pastoral Care

I was able to visit five churches during the semester. I visited Vive City Church (Bible Church), The Potter's House (Pentecostal), First United Methodist Church, Global Light Church (Revivalist), St. Edwards Catholic Church.

Vive City Church (Bible Church), visited on 01/27/2019. They are a new church plant that is renting the property of Dallas High School and meets at 10 am at 3120 N Haskell Ave. they are part of a church planting network called ARC Churches. The service order is very spontaneous, but someone seems to have a clear liturgy in mind, though the rest of the congregation does not have it. The congregation occasionally responds to the preacher by saying "Amen"

The Potter's House (Pentecostal), visited on 02/24/2019. The Potter's House is a large mega-church led by Bishop TD Jakes, a renown Pentecostal/Charismatic preaching. I was hoping to hear Bishop Jakes preach but unfortunately for me, he was on a mission in Africa and a visiting Preaching spoke in his place. When I first arrived inside the church building, it felt like I was in a business place because of the size and number of people present. However, they seem pretty organized and have everything under control. The service was very spontaneous, filled with high volume shouting, not only from the congregants but from the preacher as well but there was clearly a lot of emphasis on money and giving. Two separate offerings were collected and books for sale advertised from the pulpit.

First United Methodist Church, visited on 03/17/2019. The church is located in the heart of downtown Dallas. As visitors, we had access to Valet Parking and was welcomed by the church. The church holds several hundred congregants and the interior is beautifully decorated with an organ that is several years old. Men as well as women are ordained for ministry and dressed in clerical wear, easy to identify. The music was calm and the atmosphere was relaxing. The congregation was very involved in worship Prayers of Confession, Congregational Pledge, The Lord's Prayer, Baptismal Response, and Doxology. They have a clear liturgy printed out and available to everyone. Worship has a very Christocentric focus which I liked a lot.

St. Edwards Catholic Church, visited 04/21/2019. They meet in a beautiful building that is more than one hundred years old. We arrived earlier and when we went into the Spanish service that was finishing, there were no seats and people were standing on the sides of the meeting hall. We were not expecting to find such a large crowd at the church. The English Mass started promptly at 12 noon. The inside of the church building was decorated with several drawings, icons of Christ and several others, and with candles and colorful paintings. There were several prayers, several scripture readings, English chants by the Priest, and kneeling down during certain times. The Homily was more of an exhortation than a sermon as the priest did not open his Bible throughout his talk. There was communion and two offerings were collected.