

# THERE?

# ANYONE UP IS THERE

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Extra points for leaving the wine out! + Today was 4/20

**Service - 7/10** I'd like the think the significance of Easter helped boost the vibe in here a bit. I doubt it would be as lively on a normal day.

The graffiti skyline with the words "He is risen" tagged over it was pretty tacky to say the least.

**Ornamentation - 1/10** This church is held in a theatre, and while the theatres' facade is ornate and sculpted it doesn't have any religious ornamentation. But, that isn't to say they didn't bring any of their own!

**Attractiveness - 9/10** I have a feeling that this rating field will naturally be quite higher in LA compared to Portland but time will tell. This crowd was not only attractive but incredibly multi-cultural. This place is guaranteed to have eye candy for every perversion and preference.

Pastel madness.

The rest of the crowd, most likely downtown residents, were dressed in their Easter best.

**Dress Code - 8/10** I preferred above, a great deal of folks were homeless so I can't fault them for not having a closet of clothes to choose from.

open arms and provide them a safe and relaxing place to feel part of society again.

I've been to a lot of churches that their commitment to the public but this is the first time I actually saw home people welcomed into the building. A large portion of the crowd was straight out of Skid Row and it is nice to see that these people welcome them with

10. "Bible, I'd have to have to

**Friendliness - 5/10** Towards me, I'd have to give them a 1, only two people talked to me. One, asked if I needed parking validation and the other made fun of my name. But, towards the

## Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

10:00 AM Service

505 E 3rd Street, Los Angeles, California 90013

**Website:** <http://hhb-tla.org>

**Religion:** Buddhism - Dodo Shinshu

"Take refuge in the Niyata of Eternal Life"

As I have stated before, it is hard to hate on the concept of Universal Compassion. Hard but not impossible.

So to reach nirvana - you have to be enlightened. But, can a fish be enlightened? Can a cat? Doesn't seem like they have much of a chance, considering they probably don't even know what they are. Have you ever seen a dog bark at itself in a mirror? Sorry dog, maybe you'll get enlightened in the next life!

There is an estimated 8.7 million different species on Earth. Hardly seems fair, right? You basically have a 1 in 8.7 million chance of getting to be human and well, there is a pretty good chance you are going to be a shitty human. Most of us are. When it by the time you are finally human, the rest of the shitty humans have destroyed the planet? Can a speck of nuclear dust be enlightened?

Don't even get me started on the various Buddhas. Budai I mean Chon. That dude is too fat to be real. How the hell do you get fat in 10th Century China? Especially if you are a vegetarian. Would you even have any time to become enlightened if you are just shoveling food in your mouth all day?

Who knows? Maybe he just got man tits from eating so many soy beans.

60033

**Service - 7/10** I got a few odd looks for not knowing the whole bowing routine but don't think anyone cared too much. At one point a guy from the front started wandering towards the back. I got nervous he was going to come chat my ear off and he was close, but then two leggy blondes came in and did the welcoming routine for them instead. Whew!

There were a lot of different cultures here so clearly they are rather welcoming but there is so much routine and Japanese chanting that I feel like the learning curve is too steep. I noticed a lot of daydreaming. I'd imagine I wasn't the only one who didn't have a clue what was going on.

**Dress Code - 9/10** Neatly perfect, but I had to take off a point for the guy wearing a leopard print tank top and sunglasses on the back of his head.

**Attractiveness - 7/10** I mentioned the leggy blondes but other than them - the crowd was pretty damn ancient looking. I have to admit though, those Asians sure age well!

**Ornamentation - 9/10** This temple has been in Los Angeles for ~110 years and that is no small feat! The exterior is very traditional yet striking and adds a nice point of beauty in an otherwise ugly area - the edge of Skid Row.

The interior is layered in black and gold. I'd imagine a Pittsburgh sports fan would have a selfie field day in here.

**Service - 5/10** Too much chanting. Too many gongs and ringing bells. I am sure the idea is to set the vibe for meditation but since I already spend enough time in my head I couldn't help but feel sleepy. Luckily a bell or gong would sound randomly and perk me up.

The organ sounded like it belonged in an 80s horror film. Why are all their songs in a minor key? It was kind of depressing.

11:00 AM SERVICE

**New City Church of LA**

60033

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## White Memorial Seventh-Day Adventist Church

10:45 AM Service

1120 East Cesar E Chavez Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90033

**Website:** <http://thewhite.org>

**Religion:** Christian - Adventist

"To God be the glory!"

I feel bad for Adventists the same way I feel bad for Jewish people and Muslims. They just don't know what they are missing. Out of all meats possible - pork is the greatest meat on Earth.

Livestock, everyone's favorite book from the Old Testament, says you can eat things like cows, goats, and even locusts. Yeah, that's right, locusts. Over pigs.

Forget that whole plague thing - locusts, they're cool. But, if you so much as touch a pig!

Yeah, you can't even touch a pig. That should be the most obvious thing about all of this. Here is what I think really happened: A few thousand years ago, a dude with a lot of delicious pigs come up with a brilliant way to stop people from stealing and eating them - "Don't eat that! If you even touch those things you'll go to hell!"

If I lived back then I would have asked him two questions: Why do you have pigs then? Why did God even make pigs?

I'll tell you why he made pigs, dammit! Here's a list: Al Pastor, Carnitas, Chicharron, Cochinita Pibil, Fricado, Gyzaa, Ham Sandwich, McRib, Moo Shu Pork, Pepperconi, Pulled Pork, Salami, Vindaloo and that's just the tip of the porkberg. I mean chon, motherfucking bacon, man!

But, I'm sure there are a lot of cool recipes for locust too. \\_/\_/ \\_/\_/