



Sharing God in Our Personal Sanctuary

The Reverend Bonnie Crosier 4-26-2020

I was talking to someone this week and she was talking about how she missed the Sunday services that were held in her church. She missed the sacredness of the altar and the stained glass. She missed the feel of the energy when everyone would be seated together. Her church also meets online now, and she said still, it wasn't the same. She felt closest to God in her church, listening to the sweet sound of the hymns and by the boldness of the organ.

She was an older woman who grew up in the time where people would wear their Sunday best and make sure their dress shoes were shined. It was important in those days to present your very best when in the house of God. The pews were perfectly presented with the hymnals straightened and the offering envelopes were all facing in the same direction. Pew cards were neatly placed in the pew card holders.

The altar cloths were cleaned and neatly pressed. Flower arrangements were refreshed and strategically placed. When the faith leader would walk up to the platform, she would feel the presence of God in that sanctuary. As she talked about the fading memories, she said, "I guess I need to get over it."

She felt it important to have a part of her house to reflect what she was missing. She had an end table that she cleared and made her altar. Around it she had various religious symbols and items that brought her comfort. She downloaded mandalas that looked like a stained-glass window and as she carefully colored the spaces on the page, she created something that was her new Holy. She put them on the wall by the end table and completed her sacred space with a small makeshift candelabra that held some left-over birthday candles that had been in a drawer for years.

Last Sunday morning prior to the online church service, she quieted her mind, prayed and lit a couple of her makeshift altar candles. As she talked about how she felt last Sunday with her new altar, she talked about how she discovered something that took her by surprise.

All this time, of missing her church, she realized she was sitting in God's sanctuary. She's been sitting there for the past 30 years. She looks at life a little differently. We talked about God being everywhere and all knowing. She laughed a little and said, "I guess I've learned something new."

Religious leader Thomas S. Monson had written:

“It is in the home that we form our attitudes, our deeply held beliefs. It is in the home that hope is fostered or destroyed. Our homes are to be more than sanctuaries; they should also be places where God’s Spirit can dwell, where the storm stops at the door, where love reigns and peace dwells.”

In times of distress, some people think they need to look for God as if God was missing. One thing we know with Spiritualism is that God is found in all living things. God is in us and we are of God. It’s not that God is missing; we are missing from God.

It’s important to hold what is most holy to you and connect with that energy that unites us in compatible compassion. Our first principle states: We believe in Infinite Intelligence. To believe in a source that gives meaning to comments like, please pray for me, or keep the faith, or don’t worry God’s got this.

These comments mean nothing if one does not trust in God, and the path that we chose to walk. It doesn’t mean we walk alone. This is more important than just believing in Infinite Intelligence which is unchanging energy. As I close today, I want to leave you with this poem.

What Faith Can Do

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Fueling your faith

In what you've got within...

In your God-given gift,

It's a wonderful thing.

It will feed your grit,

To renew efforts denied.

To get up after a fall,

To take a hitch in stride.

It will fuel your drive

To pursue a worthwhile goal,

To reach for the sky

With all of your soul.

It will aid your poise

Once you start to rise up high

And ride upon the clouds

When you begin to fly.

It ignites the will

In you to spread your wings,

To give things a try,

See what the future brings.

It's a beautiful thing,

With rewards so great,

When you quell your doubts

And you fuel your faith.

May God’s grace bless you today and always.