



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast for July 11, 2021*

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### Reflections on “Celtic Christian Spirituality”

This year in my study program of Celtic Christian Spirituality, we look at one theme each month. In our summer Sunday Blasts, I will present several threads on a theme you can follow on your own, and Sunday my sermon will dig deeper into one of the threads. This week: “Hospitality.”

### Celtic Christian Perspectives on Christian Hospitality (“Being Available”)

**Scriptural Basis for “Hospitality”:** famous admonitions are in Exodus 23:9 (“do not oppress a resident alien”); Hebrews 13:2 (“some have entertained angels”); Luke 10:25-37 (the parable of the Good Samaritan); Matthew 25:31-46 (“the sheep and the goats”)

**Key Aspects of Celtic Hospitality:** Ray Simpson in Exploring Celtic Spirituality discusses hospitality as: meeting others with a generous heart, creating a welcoming home, giving time and encouragement to neighbors, welcoming all God’s creatures, and welcoming “competitors” (see St. Hilda below)

**St. Hilda of Whitby (614-680 AD):** Hilda offered her abbey in Whitby as a safe place for opposing Christian groups to meet, the Roman prelates and the Celtic Christian leaders, even though she disagreed with the position of the Roman church (see more about this at <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/whitby-abbey/history-and-stories/easter-and-the-synod-of-whitby/>)

**St. Brigid of Ireland (451-525 AD):** led a life of hospitality and generous giving of food and shelter (see more about Brigid at <https://orthochristian.com/90659.html>)

**Three Types of Altruism:** In his book Water from an Ancient Well, Kevin McIntosh suggests the ways we can make a difference in our world through different categories of assistance: (a) relief (immediate, specific assistance); (b) empowerment (support individuals to improve their own situation); and (c) development (transforming whole communities through access to employment).

**Paths to a Spiritual Life (Fr. Henri Nouwen, Reaching Out):** Nouwen discusses three spiritual movements in our lives which lead us to better relationships with (1) ourselves - isolation to solitude, (2) others - hostility to hospitality, and (3) God - illusion to prayer.

### A Prayer for Hospitality

I open my heart to Christ in the stranger, to Christ in the guise of a colleague in anger. I open my heart to the one who is wounded, to Christ in the hungry, the lonely, the homeless. I will offer a generous heart to all. (and please continue to pray for strength and renewed health for Harry and Trudy and for the families and victims of the building collapse in Florida.) AMEN