



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast *February 18, 2024*

"The Sacred Threshold"

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5 NIV)

When I think of worship ... this verse from Exodus comes immediately to mind. It paints a picture of what sacred worship could be like for all of us, and yet many people are intimidated when they go to church when they encounter unfamiliar readings from the Bible, unknown hymns or chants, curious symbolic gestures and actions. All these things can discourage people from attending a worship service, especially in an unfamiliar church. That is sad, and nobody would want that to happen. *A church door can be a barrier, as much as we would like it to be an opportunity.*

"The Sacred Threshold": An Allegory

Once upon a time, in a bustling village nestled at the foot of a majestic mountain, there stood a grand cathedral known far and wide for its intricate stained-glass windows and towering spires. Within the cathedral was a mysterious, closed door, adorned with intricate carvings shimmering with an otherworldly glow. This door was said to lead to a sacred chamber, where God could be felt most profoundly.

For generations, the villagers had gathered within the cathedral to worship and commune with God. Yet, many were hesitant to approach the mysterious door, fearing what might lay beyond. They whispered tales of those who had ventured too close, only to be met with confusion and uncertainty.

Among the villagers was a young girl named Maya, whose heart was filled with curiosity and who wished to discover the secrets hidden behind the door, but was afraid. Despite the warnings of others, Maya felt drawn to its striking beauty, wondering if it really held the key to a deeper understanding of God.

One day, the cathedral being empty of people, Maya approached the door fearfully with trembling hands. With each step toward the door, she felt the weight of uncertainty holding her back, yet she could not ignore her heart urging her forward.

As Maya reached out to touch the door, a transformation unfolded before her eyes. The carvings upon the door began to move and dance with light. And then she opened the door. Before her stretched out a path lit by a guiding beacon. Breathlessly, Maya stepped across the threshold, her heart pounding.



Beyond the threshold, Maya found herself in a place of beauty and wonder unlike anything she had ever known. The sacred chamber was alive with the soft glow of candlelight and the gentle hum of whispered prayers. Here, in the hushed reverence of worship, Maya felt a sense of peace unlike anything she had ever felt before. She felt as if she had finally found her true home in God's peace.

In the days that followed, Maya returned to the cathedral time and again, and each visit deepened her connection to God and enriched her understanding of the mysteries of faith. Across the threshold Maya had discovered not just a sanctuary for her soul but also a pathway to spiritual growth and deeping faith.

And so, the door that once seemed an imposing barrier had become for Maya a gateway to a world of divine possibility—a testament to the transformative power of faith and the boundless possibilities of God's grace.

"Ask, Seek, Knock"

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.*

*For everyone who asks receives;
the one who seeks finds;
and to the one who knocks,
the door will be opened."*

(Matthew 7:7-8 NIV)



In the allegory of "The Sacred Threshold" Maya's journey is the essence of these Biblical words of Jesus' teachings. Through her curiosity, courage, and faith, Maya embarked on a quest to unlock the mysteries of the sacred door within the cathedral. Despite her uncertainties and fears, Maya took a bold step, guided by an inner knowledge that there was something profound awaiting her on the other side. We all have had those fears at one time or another. And we probably realized it took only one hesitant step, one fearful knock on a door, to break through our doubts.

The Bible teaches us that when we earnestly seek God, doors will be opened to us. Our willingness to knock upon the door of a church will lead us not only to a sanctuary for our souls but also a pathway to spiritual enlightenment and connection with God. Maya's journey serves as a reminder of the transformative power of faith and the boundless possibilities that await those who dare to seek with an open heart and a steadfast spirit. Just as the door of the cathedral opened to Maya, so too does the promise of divine revelation and fulfillment await for us and all who have the courage to knock and seek God's Truth.

May it be so! Amen! – blessings, Vance

Prayer Box: pray for healing for Jerry, Debbie, Manuel, Joycelyn, Vance; pray for Michael's soul and his grieving family; all struggling couples; peace in Ukraine and the Middle East.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20, NIV)

Lord, hear our prayers!