



*Devotional for Church Council – by Mary Walker, Lay Leader*

When I think about my Sunday school experience as a small child – two things come to mind, a large cigar box full of broken crayons and secondly, the wonderful Bible stories the teacher told every Sunday. I’ve always had a great imagination and could just see these stories unfold before my “mind’s eye”. As an adult I still love Bible stories and there usually is one in the Sunday morning sermon. Do you remember last Sunday’s Bible story? Three disciples witnessed the gathering of Elijah, Moses and Christ, and they become transfigured, so shining white – “whiter than any mortal could bleach!”

There are numerous places throughout the Old and New Testament when God shows his glory – his presence and his power and I want to tell yet another story. It’s in 1 Kings – King Solomon was dedicating his beautiful temple to the Lord. His priests were performing sacrifices and all his people were present. All was going well and the King ordered the Ark of the Covenant to be brought in. Suddenly the temple was filled with smoke (the presence of God) God’s glory! All present were overwhelmed, to the point that the ceremony could not continue.

Remember, I have a good imagination, but when the gathering music has been played in our worship time and the people stop talking – there is a moment, I can see smoke billowing through the sanctuary - God’s Glory – and when we sing “This is Holy Ground”-I have the urge to take off my shoes and prostrate myself on the floor. That is why I come to church.

We come to church to be in the presence of God and to Worship Him. We come to worship God and God comes to be worshipped. If this were not so, Christ by the Sea would be just a building filled with nice people. We are so much more than that.

We come to worship God and God comes to be worshipped. In the old days churches were called “Meeting Place”. We come together to connect. Our faith is strengthened and we become the Body of Christ. We come together to serve because we know that serving is our obligation and our joy.

Being in the presence of God is the heart of Christ by the Sea. That’s why we’re here! We sit as its Council and it becomes a privilege, not an obligation.

Heavenly Father, we see your glory in the dazzling sunsets, the stately mountains and the roaring sea. We see your glory in the love of friends and family and the delights of life and we feel your presence as we bow down and worship you. Remind us that it is all for your glory, It is all for you.

Amen.