

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

“SO THIS IS LOVE PART 3”

By Rev. Joanna Dietz

*Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”*

*But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ~2 Samuel 7:1-11 (NRSV)*

I remember my first home with my husband. It was owned by the slumlord who lived next door. It was nothing much, but it was a kitchen, a bedroom, a living room, and it was ours.

In today’s reading, David has built himself a nice palace in Jerusalem, but he recognizes that God has no home. Nathan’s prophesy is a reminder that God loves us no matter where we live and God needs the freedom to be wherever people may be. God was with David as a shepherd in the fields and God was with David in his mighty palace. A temple will come for God, but not at this point. Many years later we hear about another house for God in a manger where the animals are kept.

I think about all the places where we create home. I think about all the people who have been evicted this year due to lack of work and the inability to pay rent. I think about refugees who call home tents and hovels. I think about the beautiful homes in Oakton. I think about my home in Centreville. We have a cliché saying: Home is where the heart is. In other words God’s home is wherever we are.

This week as we remember the Christmas story, we remember that Love came down to earth as a helpless infant, dependent on humans to care for him. Love became salvation for us all, no matter where we live or what we call home. God, who is Love, is in the fields, in the hovels, in the apartments, in the comfortable single family homes, in the palaces. There is nowhere that we can go that is not home to God.

Prayer: God, you provide love in our homes, no matter where they are or what they look like. Thank you for mine. Amen

*Thought for the Day: Consider your home. How do you invite Love into your space?*