

Moments of Beauty

Week 9 - Cathedrals and Places of Worship

Thursday, November 5



Westminster Cathedral, London England. Photo Credit: Sandy Huber
Sagrada Familia, Barcelona Spain. Photo Credit Lori Kipfer

(The LORD said) "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." Genesis 28:15-22

Jacob has spent a night wrestling with God. His response to this holy experience was to set up a stone, anoint it and name it 'the house of God.' In the end, all of our cathedrals, sanctuaries and holy places are really a pile of stones, anointed and named 'the house of God.' These two cathedrals and their beautiful stained glass windows are very different structures, in very different places. The purpose of the stained glass windows is to challenge, inform and stretch our understanding. That may feel a lot like wrestling with

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God. What are you wrestling with today? How is God present in that? What is God saying to you as you wrestle? What glimpse of beauty do you find there?