



## Reflections by the Lake Devotions for an Unordinary Time

July 7, 2020  
Life is a Church  
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During this extended pandemic, we have become tired, hampered by our social distancing and frustrated by the lingering news of Covid 19. With every phone call I have received, I continue to hear, "I really do miss my Lakeside family." We realize the importance of church in our lives. Sunday is a sacred day that we set aside for worship. We are no longer able to gather as a congregation. We try to keep busy at home with worthwhile projects, but somehow cleaning out closets does not always lift the spirits. We miss our time together, our time of fellowship.

Recently, I ran across one of Jody's old sermons that seemed to speak to our times today. It was titled "Life is a Church." While at a preaching conference in Nashville, Tennessee, Jody met Marcus Hummon, the songwriter of this title, and it became one of his favorites. Imagine what these words describe.

Watching the surf cover up my toes  
Breathing the salt air from the coast.  
Ten years old with my eyes pressed closed.  
Life is a church.

Remembering first love's kiss.  
Mourning the loss of my innocence,  
The bittersweet taste of it on my lips.  
Life is a church.

Watching my baby being born  
Written all over you, pain and joy  
Holding your hand, it's a little boy.  
Life is a church.

Ashes to ashes, earth to earth.  
The preacher throws in the first handful of dirt.  
My little boy asks me, "Does goodbye always hurt?"  
Life is a church.

These are the sacraments.  
This is the altar.  
Love is the spirit  
Making the blue planet turn.  
Life is a church.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Marcus Hummon, "Life is a Church," *The Sound of One Fan Clapping*, 1997, Velvet Armadillo Records.

“Life is a Church. Playing in the ocean, a first kiss, the loss of innocence, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, these experiences are sacred. They convey grace to us and remind us that God is with us. Life is a Church. All of life is sacred. There is nowhere that we cannot find God if we look.”<sup>2</sup>

The words of one of my favorite songs, “Look at the World,” give us a great reminder:

Look at the world: everything all around us:  
Look at the world: and marvel every day.  
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders  
So many miracles along our way.

Every good gift , all that we need and cherish,  
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;  
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty:  
His is the earth and His heavens above.<sup>3</sup>

Though we are not allowed to be in our holy place at Lakeside right now, we must remember, “that life must come into the holy spaces of our lives and the holy must be allowed to dwell in all the places of our lives.”<sup>4</sup> We miss our Lakeside family, but while we are waiting to gather again in our sanctuary as a congregation, we can still see and feel God's love and grace all around us, wherever we are. Thanks be to God!

Dear Lord,

We are tired of this pandemic life and are anxious to back with our Lakeside family. Help us to be patient and aware of all your “sacred” places all around us. Help us to be resilient and strong and know that you are always with us. We pray for all our Lakeside family, that your loving arms will keep us safe and that we may soon be wrapped in hugs together as a family again. Amen.

“Let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.”

Hebrews 12:28

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<sup>2</sup>Jody Wright, “Life is a Church,” *Lakeside Sermons*, August 26, 2007.

<sup>3</sup>John Rutter, “Look at the World,” Oxford University Press, 1996.

<sup>4</sup>Wright.