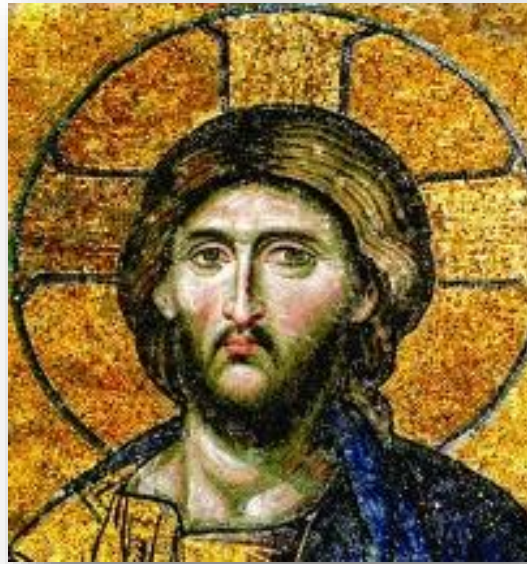




## **A SACRED SPACE IN THE HOME – Making it Personal**

Greg Lewis, Liturgical Artist & ACLS Board Member



Detail from the Deesis Mosaic – 1261 Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

### **Everything God created was good...**

In the book of Genesis, we read that everything that God created was good. And when we create at whatever level of skills, talents, and abilities we reflect God's Glory.

### **A sacred space definition...**

We require much from our community worship spaces. A place of focus, order and prayer, beauty, and safety. A sense of holiness, a sense of the sacred, looking to God. This can be true in our living spaces as well. Large or small it can become a personal sign and symbol of our own spiritual identity. Thus, a sacred space in the home

### **An analogy from the Tabernacle of Moses...**

In a personal sacred space, we can look to Hebrew history and culture in the Old Testament scripture for an analogy. Gathering around [Moses' Tabernacle](#), (link) a portable sanctuary for the dwelling place for the most-high God. A temple of atonement, and of animal sacrifice – a cleansing substitute for human sin. We can

look to the Old Testament scripture reference from the book of Exodus 25-31 and 35-41. The 12 tribes of Israel are encamped around this holy tent housing the Ark of the Covenant. The contents of is the Ten Commandments, the Staff of Aaron, and Manna. In other words: "I will lead my people. I will feed my people, and I will give them laws." The wandering tribes are molested and attacked on all sides. If they stay close to the Ark, they will be one with God, protecting them under His Covenant.



And now in present day, where are we encamped? In our homes, our tents, our dwelling places around our churches. And are we sometimes, often feeling harassed and seemingly under attack? Our spiritual doubts, our health, our relationships, our workplaces, and our economic lives? We seek a spiritual refuge.

### **Thinking our highest thoughts...**

We attend our churches, partaking in Eucharist, the new Covenant of love one another, personal atonement, sacrifice, and a change of heart. We return to our tents, encamped around our churches. Shouldn't there be a personal sacred place of spiritual rest in our homes? A place of order, focus, prayer. A space to think our highest thoughts.

### **A Sacred Space Q&A...**

There are the five main questions I would ask before attempting a sacred space for your own. First: What was your earliest memory of a sacred place or space,

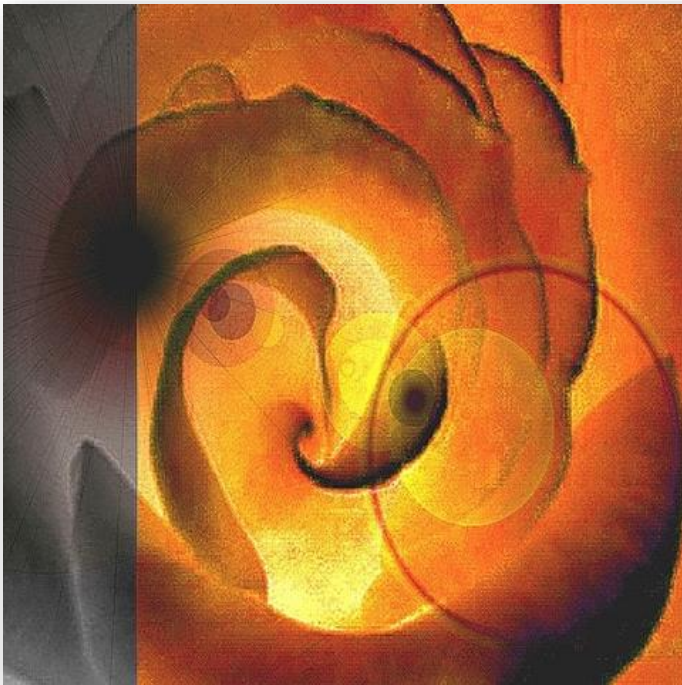
and how did you feel in it? Second: If you could create a sacred space for yourself today, where would it be? Third: What personal signs and symbols of your faith, would you put in it? Remembering that signs are the events in our lives, and symbols are our objects in response to those events. And Fifth: Finally, what personal roadblocks would be in your way, to keep you from creating your sacred space? "I don't have time...I don't have anything to put in a sacred space...I'm not interested in creating a personal sacred space...I just don't care."

### **Making it Personal...**

The sacred space, wherever that might be. The top of a dresser, down the hall, a converted closet, perhaps a spare bedroom, is your space alone. It contains personal objects of faith, photos of personal memories, your music selections, beautiful artworks, and favorite spiritual books. It includes a favorite chair with an afghan or soft blanket. A view out the window to the garden. Or even in the garden, with flowers, water feature, saintly statuary.

The choices for establishing a personal sacred space in the home are numerous. It can start on a dresser top, at the end of a hallway, a picture wall, a converted closet or even a spare bedroom.

### **An Art Meditation for Personal Sacred Space...**



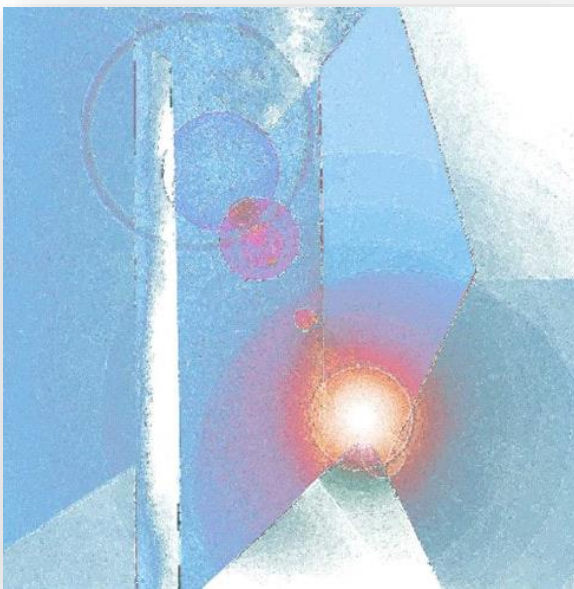
### ***Born to Beauty***

*In the Book of Genesis we read that everything God created was good. We all have been given the ability to create. For when we do create, we reflect God's Glory. Lord, help me to see your beauty in all things and to hear your creator voice*



### ***Into Your Hands***

*Sweet Rose of Sharon, Jesus. Only Son of the Father. The Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world, has sacrificed His entire body, mind, and spirit to bring a closer relationship with me. Into your hands I give you my spirit for your infinite guidance to endure this world.*



### ***Create a Clean Heart Inspired by Psalm 51***

*Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation...wash me and I will be whiter than snow.*



### **Cross of Korban**

*From the Hebrew word korban comes the definition of sacrifice. To draw near, to come closer to form a personal relationship. A relationship of sacrificial atonement of a repentant heart, of a spiritual intent. A change of heart.*



### **A Laptop Finger Labyrinth...**

*Explore the spiritual art gifts of the century's old meditation prayer form. Using our index finger, we can move to the center reflecting on our outward journey toward our inner spiritual life.*



### **Home Tabernacle - Holy Box**

*In some sanctuary worship settings, the tabernacle is a holy box representing the housing, or covering of the Eucharist (thanksgiving) bread, the Body of Christ. For just as some churches provide a tabernacle of reservation, we can provide personal signs and symbols of our prayers and remembrances in our homes.*



### **Sacred Space Decor for Interior Environments**

*Comfortable Chair, Custom Rug, Framed Artwork, Folding Screen, Home Tabernacle.*



### **A Visual Meditation on the Journeys of Christ...**

The nativity, the baptism of Jesus, the calming of the waters, the parable of the Good Samaritan, the multiplication of food, the miracle of water into wine, the journey to crucifixion, the empty tomb, and of course the resurrection from death.



### **Conclusions for Personal Sacred Space...**

Our lives are committed to family, friends, appointments, schedules for this, for that. We are for the most part, active and terribly busy. We may not enter or

access our sacred spaces daily, but we know what our space means to us. We can be assured that the sacred space is there for us. It can remind us that we are loved and have purpose. Our sacred spaces can be our outward signs and symbols of our inner faith. In closing, I can only encourage and motivate in the creation of a personal sacred space in the home. The sacred space that you create, whether simple or complex, is yours and yours alone. May our creative Lord richly bless you today and beyond.



More of Greg's work can be seen at:

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