

Taking the Leap

A reflection offered by Jennifer A. Hudson at the Celtic Service for Transformation, St. Paul's on the Green Episcopal Church, Thursday, October 10, 2019.

Luke 11: 5-13

People who know me well know that I'm a bit adventurous. I have an affinity for escape rooms. I love being behind the wheels of fast cars. I'll ride Space Mountain three times in a row.

We adventure lovers tend to be on the bolder side, and boldness involves trust—trust in one's safety and security, trust in one's self, trust in God or in the flow of the universe, trust that an outcome will be positive.

Yet I'm currently going through something that has been testing my trust in all these things, and I'm being asked to take a leap of faith into the unknown. Maybe you're also being invited to trust and take a leap of faith somewhere in *your* life. It's like being at the edge of a steep cliff on a mist-filled evening, with a chasm between where you are and where you want to be. You see the edge of that other side but not everything that it holds in store for you. Plus, there's that chasm. What if you fall? What if things don't turn out as hoped on the other side? What if? What if?

I've realized it's what's *not* visible that inhibits my *chutzpah*.

It's hard trusting what you can't see. I can see the pieces of the puzzle that need to fit together so I can escape the room. I can see the road. I may not *see* the twists and turns on a roller coaster in the dark, but after riding it enough times, I can *anticipate* each drop and dip. I can *feel* them.

In tonight's Gospel from Luke, Jesus says ask enough times and God will give what is requested. That's not to say God sees us as squeaky

wheels to silence. Rather, I think God wants us to get bold and ask for the provision of our deepest longings and needs—persistently—because it creates and reinforces relationship with God, which is God’s own deepest longing and need.

And don’t all relationships require trust? Think of how establishing trust with someone enables us to move beyond our normal comfort zones, how love can make us do things we once thought impossible. It’s the same with God.

Jesus’ relationship with God enabled him to live one incredible adventure. He took risks every moment. He traveled long distances to spread God’s love to those on the margins. He asked God’s aid as he healed, taught, walked on water, and challenged the established order. He died on a cross and rose three days later—transformed, glorified. In all of this it was Jesus’ complete trust in God that enabled him to cross the chasm and reach his destiny. He didn’t need to *see* the victorious outcome on the other side. He *felt* it. He *anticipated* it.

So the next time you or I hesitate to take that leap into the unknown, we might take a moment, close our eyes, and *feel* the positive outcome as if it’s already present, asking God’s aid in making it so, asking for the *chutzpah*. Maybe, just maybe, when we open our eyes, we’ll find ourselves already having crossed the chasm and that what’s there will be better than anything we imagined.