

Dance in the Bible

August 4, 2019

Dancing in the Street (or Dance like Nobody's Watching!)

First Reading ~ *2 Samuel 6:14-22a*

David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before YHWH with all his might, while he and his whole house of Israel brought up the Ark of YHWH (into the City of David) with shouts and the sounds of trumpets. As the Ark entered the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter (David's wife), looked down through the window and saw David leaping and dancing before YHWH, and his display disgusted her.

The Ark of the Covenant was brought in and set in its place within the tent David had set up for it. Then David made burnt offerings and peace offerings before YHWH. Finishing, the ruler blessed the people in the name of YHWH. Then he distributed among them- to each woman and man –a loaf of bread, a cake of dates, and a cake of raisins. And all the people returned to their homes.

When David returned home to greet his household, Michal met him and said, “Well... didn’t the ruler of Israel put on a show of dignity today- uncovering himself in front of his servant’s handmaids, as any vulgar clown might expose himself.” David replied, “It was done in the presence of YHWH, who chose me instead of your father and family by appointing me ruler over Israel, the people of YHWH. And I am sure I will earn even more disgrace and demean myself even further in your eyes. But those handmaids of which you speak, they will honor me for it.”

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Frederick Buechner, Sacrament & Ritual*

A wedding. A handshake.
A kiss. A coronation. A parade.
A meal. A dance.

A ritual is the performance of an intuition,
something felt, known, and understood.
A sacrament is the breaking through
of the sacred into the profane,
into our daily lives.

A ritual is the ceremonial acting out of the profane
in order to show forth its sacredness.

A sacrament is God offering
divine holiness to people.

A ritual is people raising up the holiness
of their humanity
to God.