

Subject: Sermon Ideas – Containers Of, and For God

**Containers of God --
Containers for God
By Rev. Diane Borcyckowski**

I couldn't decide if my title should be containers of God or containers for God for we are both. We are containers of God for all that we are is God – all that we contain are the attributes of God, the life of God.

We are also blessed to be containers for God – for if we have recognized fully that we are God expressing life on this plane with each other – we become masters of life and share that life for God. We give our lives not to God – but for God. For we are instruments for God's expression and love.

The events of Sept 11 have seemingly put a damper on our lives. Our country is obsessed with fear, obsessed with watching the news to see what is the next big threat coming from the apparent power for evil. When's the next shoe going to drop? How can we ever recover? Do we have to wait till it's over to recover? Will it ever be over? It may not ever be over but it is being transformed – because we are turning to God. We must keep returning to thoughts of God – the power of God. We must not give our power to thoughts of evil or fear.

This is not Armageddon. Our world is not at an end – this is genesis – our world is at a beginning. What we do with this new beginning is up to us. For there is a divine vision for our lives. We must see it; we must know it and we must participate in it. Our every activity is the joy of God moving through us. Do you realize ecstasy and bliss are the natural state of our beingness? We must realize this – to realize is to make it real. Has our minister gone insane talking about bliss and ecstasy when we are in the midst of horror and terror in our world? I guess there is a fine line between insanity and spiritual experience. Yes I think this intense experience has put me over the edge but it is not buffo's I'm seeing but there is a light I see. I am just so impressed and so touched by people these days. How wise and enlightened is the response to what was nothing but dark and tragic. Oh I hear about how scared people are but all I really witness is true beauty and loving kindness. We cannot return to living the way we were before Sept 11th and frankly I don't want to. I don't think I could even if I wanted to. I am more and so is each of us. For where the depths of pain and fear are, so are the depths of joy and love. We can choose when we reach there – there deep in the container of our souls.

We must move into a new place of living of living fully because we are full containers for God and we've been given the opportunity to recognize it. We are of the infinite and we overflow with love. We are true containers for God if our lives are lived in spiritual values and truth principles. True transformation takes us beyond all seeming limitations. The transformed live their lives in

appreciation. So many are living more wholly in spiritual values and principles and I feel the transformation taking place inside myself and inside so many I've spoken with.

We come to church – to join in the community of spirit to amplify our containers – to create an environment where we realize our special and unique emanations of God – God the love intelligence that governs the universe. We come to church not only because we are committed to the theoretical understanding of our oneness and union in God but also to the active practice of this spiritual truth in our every day lives. Through the teachings of the science of mind and spirit and the energy of unconditional love, our aim as containers of God is nothing short of spiritual transformation. Simply we are containers of God and for God.

Today is about being on the spiritual path of freedom and declaring that we know nothing can take us off this path – no one can take us off this path. We know what it is to live a spiritual life and we know what it brings to us and what it brings through us. A beautiful statement of this comes in a pathway of roses by Christian Larson. He says: the soul that is attaining real spiritual wisdom, that is growing daily in the love that loves everything, that is living in the peace that passeth understanding, that is being filled more and more with life and power from on high, that is gaining conscious realization of all the divine elements of pure spiritual being - that soul is laying up treasures in heaven. Such a soul is coming into possession of those superior riches now and is learning to use them today for the glory of God and the emancipation of humanity. To become a strong soul, to attain the mastery of the spirit – to become a living inspiration to the whole world, to unfold all that is lofty and beautiful and sublime and the spiritual life, to realize the joy everlasting and draw nearer and nearer to at onement – that is the purpose of those who are laying up treasures in heaven. And when we possess spirituality with all its qualities of high worth, we have the riches of all riches; we have the something that produces all riches, not only in the spirit but also in mind and body. That person that has found the riches of the within need never have any fear of external loss. Though all might disappear in the without, still being in touch with the source of all supply, they could at once begin to gain everything. When we are in the spirit we are upon the solid rock of all good. We possess the key to unbounded riches on all planes and so long as we live in the spirit we shall not lose that key. When one door closes we can open another – sometimes several. All that the heart can wish for shall always be ours to possess and enjoy. When we are in the spirit, we not only possess the riches of the spirit, those riches that actually make every moment of existence a full realization of the highest joys of life, but we also possess the power to supply the without abundantly - being in perfect touch with the giver of all the good that is in the world.

We must keep living in the spirit – no matter what. The spirit of the living God is everywhere in its fullness and we are opening our eyes and our hearts and our inner eye to see that no matter what the appearances – no matter what the

circumstances we do live in a wonderful world. As containers of God we must insist on seeing beyond circumstances - not ignore or deny circumstances but see more than just the circumstances. When we are free to do this – when we grow to be the light beings that can do this - we begin to extend our hearts and begin to see that the kingdom of heaven is at hand – that the kingdom of God is within – that this beloved community that we participating is larger than it looks – it is emerging every single place an individual is willing to participate fully in the love and joy and compassion that they feel in their heart.

When Katherine was singing she was giving us a glimpse into reality. Now you really want to understand this because even as I'm saying it – I just know it's bumping up against the surface mind that is saying "But did you read the paper this morning Reverend– did you read the past month. Have you look at the war– have you seen the hate crimes – Reverend, you need to see a shrink. What do you mean this is a wonderful world?"

I don't know if you've heard this story or not but we have some pretty great neighbors up north!

An airline employee tells:

We were about 5 hours out of Frankfurt flying over the north Atlantic and I was in my crew rest seat taking my scheduled rest break. All of a sudden the curtains parted violently and I was told to go to the cockpit, right now, to see the captain. As soon as I got there I noticed that the crew had one of those "all business" looks on their faces.

The captain handed me a printed message. I quickly read the message and realized the importance of it. The message was from Atlanta, addressed to our flight, and simply said, "All airways over the continental us are closed. Land ASAP at the nearest airport, advise your destination."

Now, when a dispatcher tells you to land immediately without suggesting which airport, one can assume that the dispatcher has reluctantly given up control of the flight to the captain. We knew it was a serious situation and we needed to find terra firma quickly.

It was quickly decided that the nearest airport was 400 miles away, behind our right shoulder, in Gander, on the island of Newfoundland.

A quick request was made to the Canadian traffic controller and a right turn, directly to Gander, was approved immediately. We found out later why there was no hesitation by the Canadian controller approving our request. We, the in-flight crew, were told to get the airplane ready for an immediate landing. While this was going on another message arrived from Atlanta telling us about some

terrorist activity in the New York area.

We briefed the in-flight crew about going to Gander and we went about our business 'closing down' the airplane for a landing. A few minutes later I went back to the cockpit to find out that some airplanes had been hijacked and were being flown into buildings all over the U.S. We decided to make an announcement and lie to the passengers for the time being.

We told them that an instrument problem had arisen on the airplane and that we needed to land at Gander, to have it checked. We promised to give more information after landing in Gander. There were many unhappy passengers but that is par for the course.

We landed in Gander about 40 minutes after the start of this episode. There were already about 20 other airplanes on the ground from all over the world. After we parked on the ramp the captain made the following announcement.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you must be wondering if all these airplanes around us have the same instrument problem as we have. But the reality is that we are here for a good reason." then he went on to explain the little bit we knew about the situation in the U.S. There were loud gasps and stares of disbelief. Local time at Gander was 12:30 pm. (11:00 am EST.)

Gander control told us to stay put. No one was allowed to get off the aircraft. No one on the ground was allowed to come near the aircrafts. Only a car from the airport police would come around once in a while, look us over and go on to the next airplane. In the next hour or so all the airways over the north Atlantic were vacated and Gander alone ended up with 53 airplanes from all over the world, out of which 27 were flying us flags.

We were told that each and every plane was to be offloaded, one at a time, with the foreign carriers given the priority. We were no.14 in the U.S. category. We were further told that we would be given a tentative time to deplane at 6 pm. Meanwhile bits of news started to come in over the aircraft radio and for the first time we learned that airplanes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York and into the Pentagon in D.C.

People were trying to use their cell phones but were unable to connect due to a different cell system in Canada. Some did get through but were only able to get to the Canadian operator who would tell them that the lines to the U.S. were either blocked or jammed and to try again. Some time late in the evening the news filtered to us that the World Trade Center buildings had collapsed and that a fourth hijacking had resulted in a crash.

Now the passengers were totally bewildered and emotionally exhausted

but stayed calm as we kept reminding them to look around to see that we were not the only ones in this predicament. There were 52 other planes with people on them in the same situation. We also told them that the Canadian government was in charge and we were at their mercy.

True to their word, at 6 pm, Gander airport told us that our turn to deplane would come at 11am, the next morning. That took the last wind out of the passengers and they simply resigned and accepted this news without much noise and really started to get into a mode of spending the night on the airplane.

Gander had promised us any and all medical attention if needed; medicine, water, and lavatory servicing. And they were true to their word.

Fortunately we had no medical situation during the night. We did have a young lady who was 33 weeks into her pregnancy. We took really good care of her. The night passed without any further complications on our airplane despite the uncomfortable sleeping arrangements. About 10:30 on the morning of the 12th we were told to get ready to leave the aircraft.

A convoy of school buses showed up at the side of the airplane, the stairway was hooked up and the passengers were taken to the terminal for "processing". We, the crew, were taken to the same terminal but were told to go to a different section, where we were processed through immigration and customs and then had to register with the Red Cross. After that we were isolated from our passengers and were taken in a caravan of vans to a very small hotel in the town of Gander. We had no idea where our passengers were going.

The town of Gander has a population of 10,400 people. Red Cross told us that they were going to process about 10,500 passengers from all the airplanes that were forced into Gander. We were told to just relax at the hotel and wait for a call to go back to the airport, but not to expect that call for a while. We found out the total scope of the terror back home only after getting to our hotel and turning on the TV, 24 hours after it all started. Meanwhile we enjoyed ourselves going around town discovering things and enjoying the hospitality. The people were so friendly and they just knew that we were the "plane people". We all had a great time until we got that call, 2 days later, on the 14th at 7am. We made it to the airport by 8:30am and left for Atlanta at 12:30 pm arriving in Atlanta at about 4:30pm. (Gander is 1 hour and 30 minutes ahead of EST., yes! 1 hour and 30 minutes.) But that's not what I wanted to tell you. What passengers told us was so uplifting and incredible and the timing couldn't have been better.

We found out that Gander and the surrounding small communities, within a 75 kilometer radius, had closed all the high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and any other large gathering places. They converted all these facilities to a mass lodging area. Some had cots set up, some had mats with sleeping bags and

pillows set up. All the high school students had to volunteer taking care of the "guests". Our 218 passengers ended up in a town called Lewisporte, about 45 kilometers from Gander. There they were put in a high school. If any women wanted to be in a women only facility, that was arranged. Families were kept together. All the elderly passengers were given no choice and were taken to private homes.

Remember that young pregnant lady; she was put up in a private home right across the street from a 24 hour urgent care type facility. There were MDs on call and they had both male and female nurses available and stayed with the crowd for the duration. Phone calls and emails to us and Europe were available for every one once a day. During the days the passengers were given a choice of "excursion" trips.

Some people went on boat cruises of the lakes and harbors. Some went to see the local forests. Local bakeries stayed open to make fresh bread for the guests. Food was prepared by all the residents and brought to the school for those who elected to stay put. Others were driven to the eatery of their choice and fed. They were given tokens to go to the local laundromat to wash their clothes, since their luggage was still on the aircraft.

In other words every single need was met for those unfortunate travelers. Passengers were crying while telling us these stories. After all that, they were delivered to the airport right on time and without a single one missing or late. All because the local Red Cross had all the information about the goings on back at Gander and knew which group needed to leave for the airport at what time. Absolutely incredible.

When passengers came on board, it was like they had been on a cruise. Everybody knew everybody else by their name. They were swapping stories of their stay, impressing each other with who had the better time. It was mind boggling. Our flight back to Atlanta looked like a party flight. We simply stayed out of their way. The passengers had totally bonded and they were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses. And then a strange thing happened. One of our business class passengers approached me and asked if he could speak over the PA to his fellow passengers. We never, never, allow that. But something told me to get out of his way. I said "of course". The gentleman picked up the pa and reminded everyone about what they had just gone through in the last few days. He reminded them of the hospitality they had received at the hands of total strangers. He further stated that he would like to do something in return for the good folks of the town of Lewisporte. He said he was going to set up a trust fund under the name of Delta 15 (our flight number). The purpose of the trust fund is to provide a scholarship for high school student(s) of Lewisporte to help them go to college. He asked for donations of any amount from his fellow travelers. When the paper with donations got back to us with the amounts, names, phone

numbers and addresses, it totaled to \$14.5k or about \$20k Canadian. The gentleman who started all this turned out to be an MD from Virginia. He promised to match the donations and to start the administrative work on the scholarship. He also said that he would forward this proposal to Delta corporate and ask them to donate as well.

Why, all of this?

Just because some people in far away places were kind to some strangers, who happened to literally drop in among them?

Why not?

Why not indeed. The world has never seemed smaller to me since I sent my first email to the other side of the planet a few years ago. The world is small in size but it's has just grown huge in love. And it is getting bigger and bigger in love every day as the sharing and caring goes on. How big does the exchange of love have to be – 7 x 70 bigger than the exchange of hate? This is a wonderful world – a changed world – changed for the better and I pray forever changed.

When you begin to plumb the depths of your own container – your own soul – when you begin to spiritually treat yourself and begin to open up your heart you begin to see there really is a spiritual kingdom, beyond appearances, beyond your opinion of reality, beyond your experience of your opinion of reality – I say that because most people don't experience reality, they experience their opinion of reality because you can't experience reality – you can only realize it in prayer, you see? And in that instant that Katherine was singing she elevated all of us into the awareness that there is a spiritual kingdom. It is here. It is now. And our journey spiritually is to awaken to that divine activity that is happening everywhere and to begin to not only see it but to allow for our lives to be an extension of that which we "see". Thus if you follow that and if you're a spiritual pilgrim, if you're a spiritual sojourner, if you are an individual who is consciously traveling on the spiritual path, you're beginning to be aware of the cosmology of freedom. Some people are saying that America is losing some of its freedom – the only freedom that can be lost is our mental freedom – and I refuse to give mine up by turning it over to those so weak in spirit that they want to do harm. There is absolute order and harmony that can never be broken - and this universe really is a manifestation of the beauty and the order of cosmic intelligence, the beauty and the order of God itself. There is a cosmology of freedom and joy, meaning that everything is working together for our good, for our joy, for our peace, for our harmony, for our love. That the universe is a manifestation of divine order. Now if you catch that piece right there you'll never have to have a superstitious thought. Or a belief that the presence of God is outside of you or outside of our world – demanding all kinds of things and setting up all kinds of tests and delaying our good. Come to an understanding that if God is for you, and there is nothing against you. The stumbling blocks in your

prayer work for the world or for yourself have been your interpretation or your opinion that you've placed upon the presence of God – when all the time the spirit of the living God is saying it is my good pleasure to give you the kingdom. If you can extend just a little bit, you'll no longer fight yourself to receive the blessing – the doors have already been kicked open too big for us to receive it. Just take a deep breath and say thank you God. Thank you for my life, for my breath. Thank you for more than I can see, more than I can describe. I'm available to it. All your prayer work will no longer be filled with worry and fear for tomorrow but it will be full of praise for the kingdom which is here and now today and always. That is reality. This is a wonderful world. This is a wonderful life and we shall refuse to fear. We shall claim joy in today and our ability to feel the joy. We are here for God not for the terrorists. We focus on God as peace not on terror. There is only a power for God – there is no power in terror unless we turn our minds to it. There is a power for good in this universe and by God; we are going to use it! Our prayer work is a song of praise and thanksgiving now for all the love and giving that has risen so far beyond the hate and horror. .

As Ernest Holmes said all of nature is conspiring for the individual's freedom so that it may unloose its own energy through us. Everything is working for our freedom so that universal good can express its own life through you and me. God wants you to be free so that it can express its life through you. God cannot express its life through you if you are inhibited, if you are blaspheming it with thoughts of power outside of God. Don't blaspheme the isness of God by saying I can't, I'm unwilling, I'm not good enough, I'm not strong enough, I came from the wrong side of the tracks – they didn't have tracks from the side I came from. That is blaspheming and demeaning the isness of God by trying to limit it in some fashion by saying I'm not enough. Don't limit the isness!

The whole universe is trying to express itself through you – its container. If it's for you – there's nothing against you. Take a breath on that – breathe that one in – it's for us – and there's nothing against us. There is no power against us – there is only a power for us. With that breath you're sneaking up on the awareness that you are already free – that within your soul, spiritually, you're already free. You just don't know it. You've been snagged by the highly charged thought forms of separation that have you in all manner of a quandary of who you are and what you represent. It's called the sea of mental garbage. It's infiltrated your awareness and you're thinking from these thoughts of separation, doubt, and worry and fear. But now you can be free of it. You're already free.

Until the time we wake up fully to God in us as us – people shall walk through life afraid of death because they have identified the body as whom and what they really are. People move through life, with a seeking after a counterfeit happiness, a counterfeit joy, by playing the game of protect the little self. When you're sleep walking, half awake not knowing who you are and what you represent you walk through life seeking a counterfeit joy, a counterfeit happiness to fill up an artificial hole within yourself that's not really there. America has been awakened from its

smallness and from the pursuit of happiness in the next anesthesia of sex, food or staying too busy. Now we know what's important and we must live what's important. Now we know true love and true abundance. Now we know God.

Now we know that we have a spiritual life – that life is containing the image and likeness of God. We don't want to go back to life as usual – because that life which seems like an incarnation away now – was all about getting as much excitement as you can and to protect the little life. That life was fueled by fear, doubt and worry. What's going to happen to me in the future? Do you know what happened to me in the past? Future past future past – you're never here with yourself. The horrible wake up call did break our cycle however and now we must begin to develop something new in order to really recover. We must replace our reflex of fear and develop a reflex for joy and oneness. It's time to stretch and become spacious. No pretend positive thinking or affirmations that we're ok again. We're different now. We've been changed. And that change is that we're much deeper and we're going deeper still. It's not about being a positive thinking church defying a negative thinking world – it's now about what is life affirming and life defeating and asking ourselves which we are going to choose. We are going to affirm life at its depths – and that means going beyond circumstances – beyond ground zero. We must know beyond knowing that our life is not just contained in God. Our life is God. All that I see is the life of God. We have to grow up. This is spiritual adult business. No more playing around with the principles no more practicing – it's time to do it for real – be it for real. This is all there is. All there is - is the power and the presence and the love of God. There is only one power and one presence and one life. I am spacious. I am big enough. I do not limit the isness of God from expressing through me. We are invincible containers of God and for God.