Going to “Church”

They call it “Church.”
  worship service or Bible study,
  Protestant or Catholic,
  weekend or weekday.
It’s all the same to them.

They’re all God’s children with
  crippled bodies, failing vision,
  some awake, some asleep, and
  others hardly aware of their surroundings.
Not the typical Sunday morning congregation.

Yet something mysterious happens
  as the hymns are sung,
  the lessons read,
  the prayers prayed,
and God’s children offer their praise and worship.

God comes and makes God’s Self known in this humble setting.
The Spirit of God moves among these frail and aging children
  to stir their holy memories of worship in Christian community
  imprinted by loving parents and faithful pastors,
  now in the company of saints gathered round the throne of God.

Beloved old hymns retrieved from failing memories
Join the choir of heaven, praising God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
  bread broken,
  wine shed,
  God’s kingdom revealed.
Christ is truly present: “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

The curtain pulled back for a brief moment
  to give God’s children a glimpse of eternity,
  strength for the day,
  hope for the future.
“Happy are those who take refuge in Him.”

James F. Brandis

The Reverend James F. Brandis, STM (Master of Sacred Theology), BCC, serves as Corporate at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Retirement Services, Inc. He is endorsed by the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). Correspondence may be directed to jbrandis@shepherdofthevalley.com

The Journal of the Association of Professional Chaplains