

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

FEBRUARY 2025

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL FEBRUARY 2025



This issue transcends place and time. We start in the past when artists considered their work sacred and their efforts physical prayer. Then, we're heading outside to find a strong solitary tree to sit under on a sunny day. Finally, we go back indoors to see if we can resurrect the good life from the Gilded Age. Upon our return home, we send a postcard from this Creative Journey to a faraway friend.

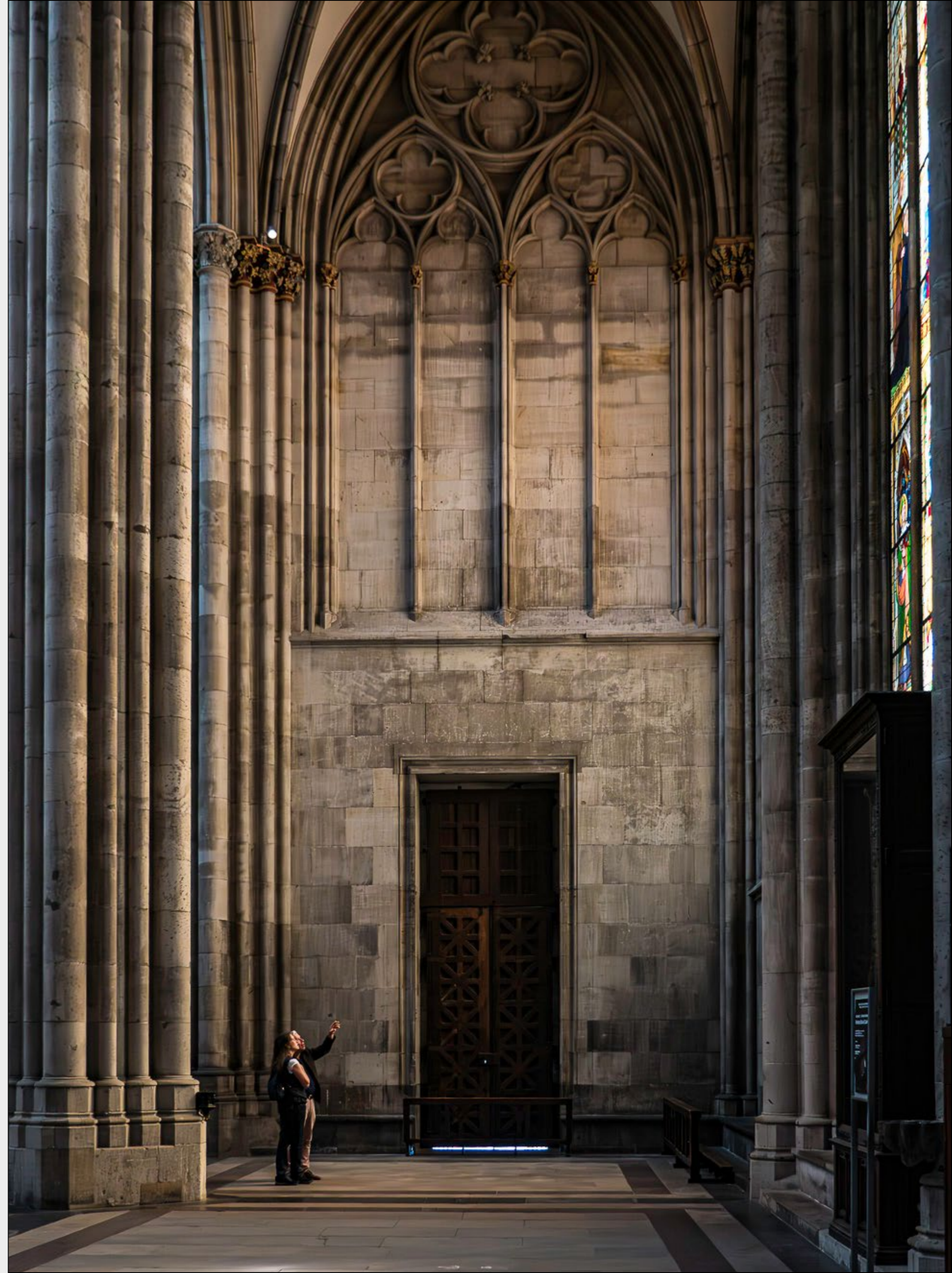
A photograph of the interior of a Gothic cathedral, viewed from a low angle looking up. The central focus is a large, ornate stained glass window with a complex design of figures and patterns. Below it is a smaller, pointed arch window with a cross. To the left and right are two more stained glass windows, each with a distinct design. The architecture features tall, slender columns with decorative capitals, and the ceiling is high and vaulted. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the colors of the stained glass and the textures of the stone and wood.

Glass Prayers

Glass Prayers

The construction of Churches is often thought of as a blessed activity. The usual construction site behavior is replaced by one of reverence for the task of building a Church. When my Church was being built, the brick masons sang spiritual hymns as they constructed the sanctuary. Their activity was a physical prayer, an activity offered up for the glory of God. It was the same for the medieval artisans whose form of prayer was making stained glass windows for Churches.

He said they were glass prayers.



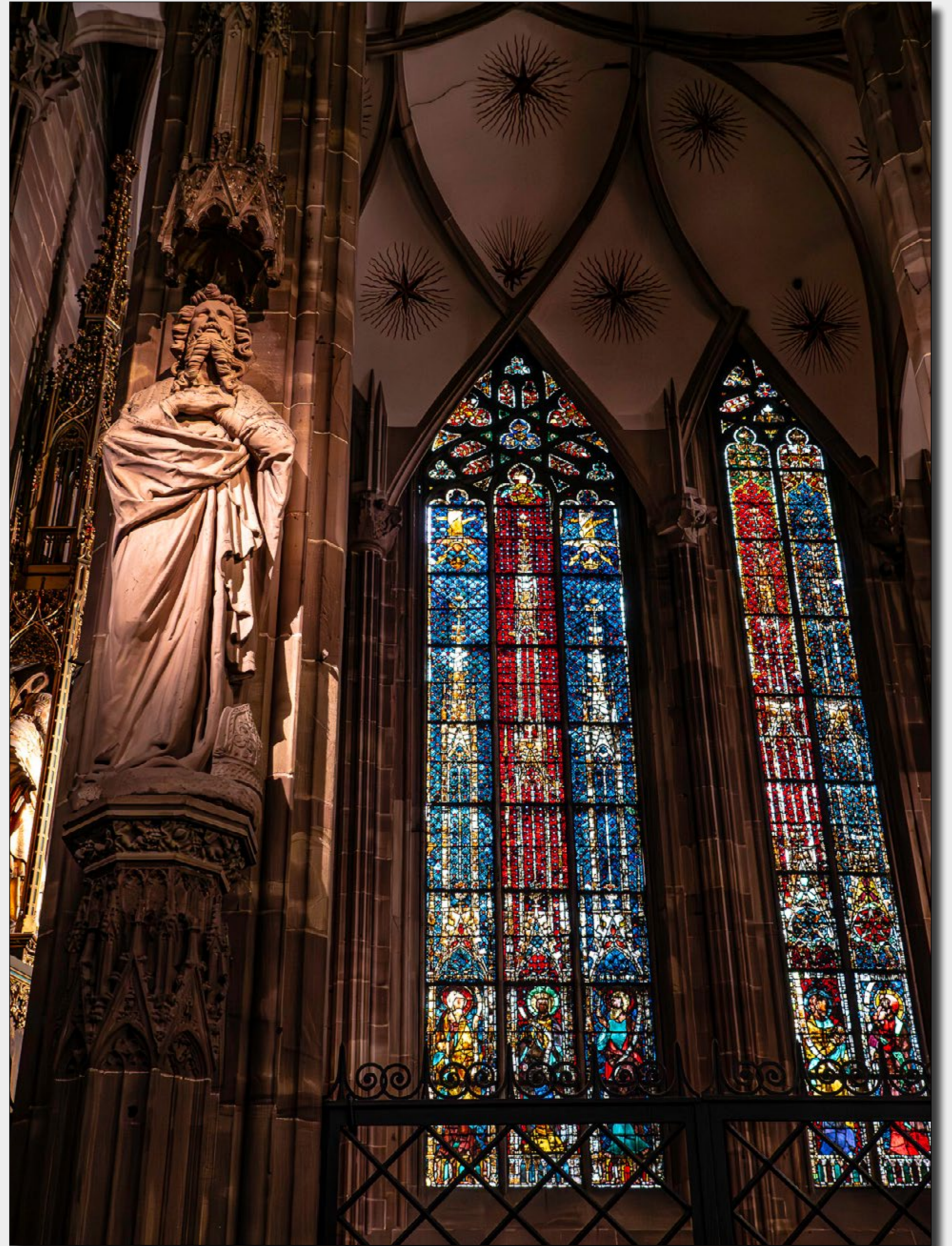


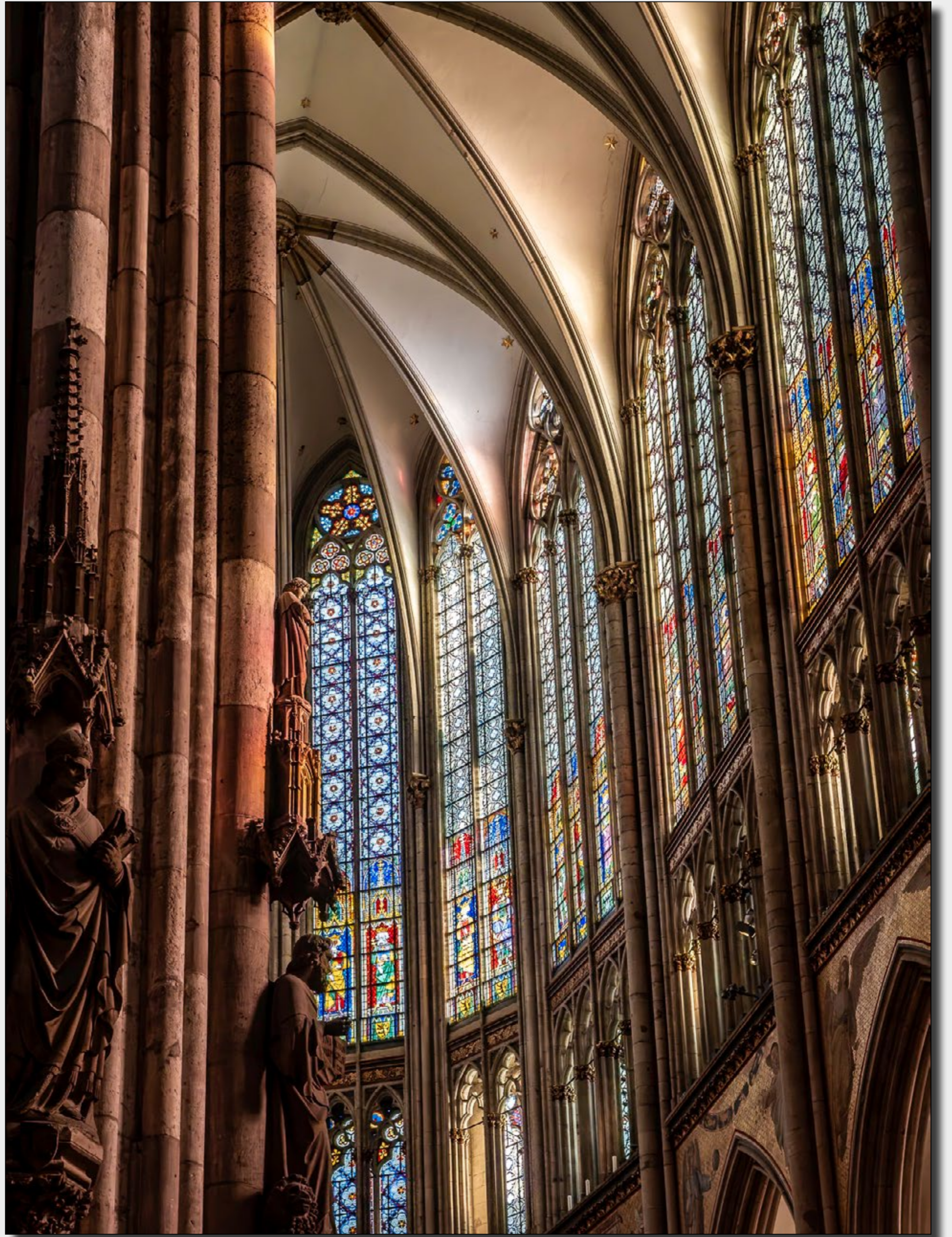
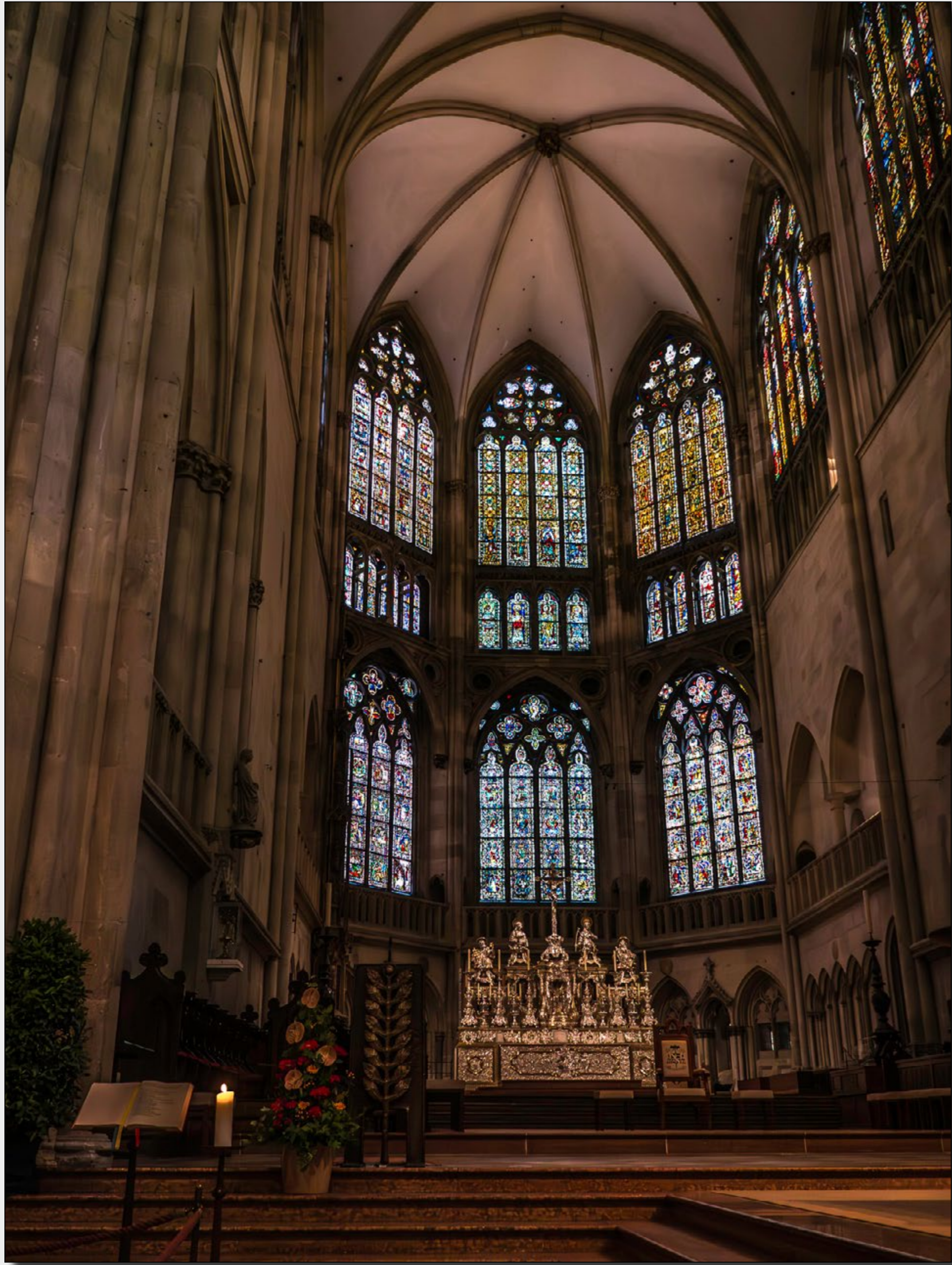
















A Mostly True Story

Well, the vandals struck again. Even though it was the dead of winter, and the park had been closed for three months, someone snuck through the fence and made off with, well, you know. Again. Now, I have to replace what was stolen. Maybe I'll wait until just before the park opens in the spring so I don't have to, well, you can see what I have to replace.

Solitary Trees



Solitary Trees

"Solitary trees, if they grow at all, grow strong."

Winston Churchill, writing in *The River War*.























Marshalls arrived. The bad guys left.

Prologue: A photo and six words.



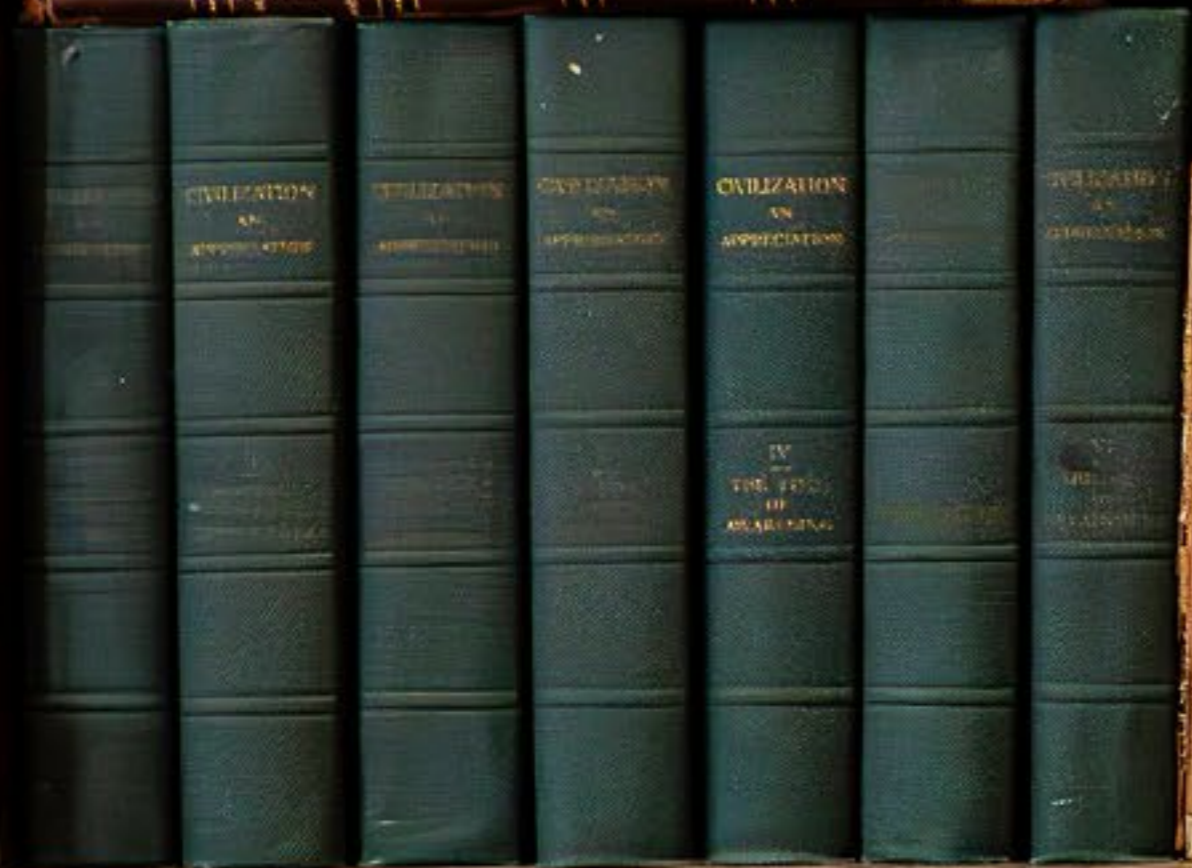
Better Days

Better Days

We all happen to come upon that time in our existence when the Better Days are memories, but we have that hope that a different type of Better Days will soon visit us. We seem to be constantly stuck in that place where memory, dreams and reality collide under the same roof. We walk from room to room trying to sort out where we are at this time.























DO NOT TOUCH

Postcards from the Creative Journey



With photographic art, there are multiple requirements and multiple audiences all with different ideas on what constitutes quality. There are those that think gallery representation is the ultimate goal, there are those who think creating photographic books is the cat's meow.

How do you measure your success? Is it happiness in creating something beautiful? Is it having a good time photographing with a group of your friends? Do you like the challenge of creating art? Or do you just do what you want to do, put the resulting art out there and hope for the best?

JOE



John Watson

Baker Street

London

A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Glass Prayers

Last year in Scotland, I was able to tour a private chapel with just a few stained glass windows. I thought this would be a short project for The Journal. When I began to assemble these few images, I thought more images would improve the presentation. I began to search for stained glass windows in my Lightroom Catalog and found more images of stained glass windows to complete the project. The title came from a six-word story, "He said they were glass prayers."



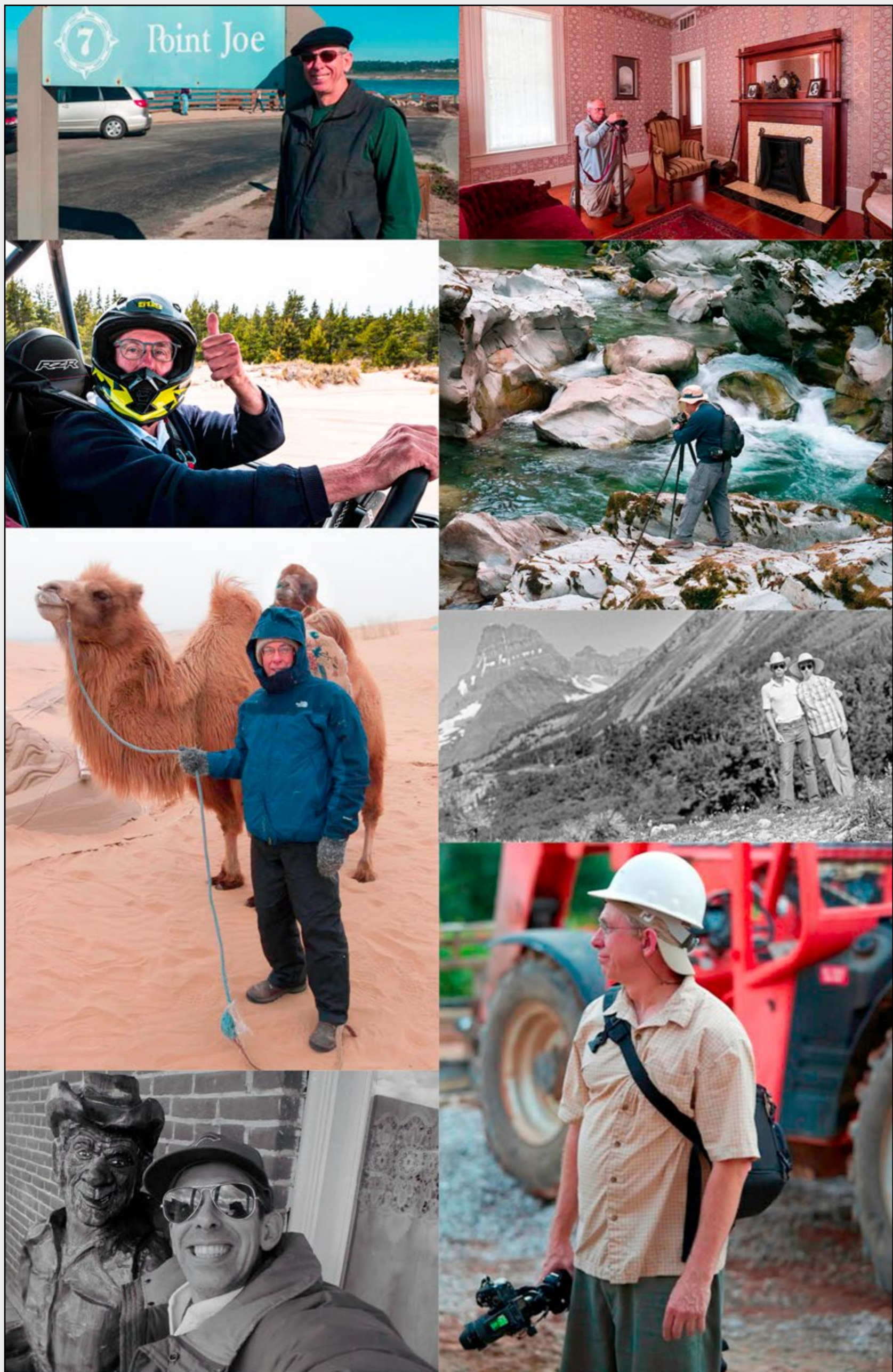
Solitary Trees

The quote is from Winston Churchill's book, *The River War*, his account of the Reconquest of the Sudan in the 1880s. The complete quote is, "*Solitary trees, if they grow at all, grow strong; and a boy deprived of a father's care often develops, if he escape the perils of youth, an independence and vigour of thought which may restore in after life the heavy loss of early days.*" The single tree in the landscape is a landscape photographer's "go to" subject. The challenge is to imbue something of importance to the common scene. Churchill's quote gives context and understanding to the image of the Solitary Tree.



Better Days

Restoration is a process. Ventfort Hall is a grand gilded age mansion in Lenox, Massachusetts. Some places look fabulous, some are "works in progress" and there are places that have yet to be restored to their former glory. We can't do everything at once. There are financial limitations, structural limitations and of course, priorities. None the less, the restoration required return Ventfort to its former glory is in progress.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, now publishes new content as part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image is posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

The Lipka Journal, February 2025

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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