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SACRED ART



Far Left: *The World*, 2000
Middle: *Shalom, Peace*, 2000
Right: *Poured Out for You*, 2000

8' x 4' Acrylic & Canvas

Installed at Edgehill United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN,

Creation

This banner represents the diversity of God's creation. It reminds us that we are not at the center of God's creation; we are only a part of it. As a part of God's created order we are called to nurture each other in love and to walk in balance on our Earth home, honoring all living beings. As children of the Living God, we give thanks for the abundance of beauty found in creation and for the very presence of God for others. Humbly we accept the responsibility to honor all God's creation by the way we live.

Shalom, Peace

The labyrinth at the center of this banner has been a tool for pilgrimage in the Christian church for centuries. The labyrinth pictured here is found on the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France. Here, it symbolizes that pilgrimage into the heart of Christ; it is the way we close the distance between God and ourselves and between ourselves and our sisters and brothers. The human figures, done in gold, remind us we are royal.

Poured Out for You

This banner tells the story of Jesus' ministry, a ministry to which we are called to participate by the nature of our baptism (represented by the shell with three drops of water). The baptism of our Lord is represented by the dove. The feeding of the 5,000 is depicted through the two fish and five loaves; they remind us to feed the hungry. The hands with the spiral of healing energy in the center call us to participate in Jesus' healing ministry by bringing reconciliation and healing to the world's broken places. The human figures, dancing at the top of the banner, remind us the Lord of the Dance invites us to a life of love and joy.



Far Left: *The Least of These*, 2005
9' x 5' acrylic on cloth

Immediate Left: *Rising Hope Cross*, 2003
9' x 6' acrylic on cloth

Installed at Rising Hope United Methodist
Mission Church, Alexandria, VA

The Least of These

This banner depicts modern setting for the acts of mercy described in the scripture, "... *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me . . . 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

The Rising Hope Cross

The cross, painted in the colors of springtime, represents hope to the hopeless. The light surrounding the cross speaks of abundant life that defies death.



Left: *On the Way*

Each ten-foot panel is acrylic on stretched canvass

Created for *Soulfeast 2009*
Lake Junaluska, NC

"On the Way" by Karla M. Kincannon is a series of 5 panels depicting the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Bold colors to invite the viewer on journey through the life of Christ from the descending dove at Jesus' baptism to the unleashing of the Paraclete into the world.

On the way to the Jordan

Symbols of baptism— the shell and three drops of water, along with the dove—are the central focus of this banner. The river of Jordan runs through the bottom of the banner inviting us to an initiation in to the Christian community. The Greek letters, alpha and omega, remind us that Christ is the beginning and the end, and that when we are baptized we are baptized into his life and his death.

On the Way to Galilee

Images of wilderness and discernment are central in this panel. Following his baptism, the Spirit drove Christ into the wilderness. There he turned his life towards a ministry of servanthood. Footprints over a stony path merge into fish, signifying the decision to become a fisher of people. The boat, a symbol of the church and the net, a symbol of discipleship, also adorn this panel. The river of life, which began as the Jordan River in the first panel, flows through the center of this panel and all the rest of the panels.

On the Way Up the Mountain

This panel depicts the transfiguration. In the center of this piece Moses and Elijah talk to Jesus. The glory of that moment hints of the resurrection to come. The palm branch in the lower right hand corner foretells the events of Holy Week and reminds us that we are not meant to stay on the mountain top forever, but are called into the city streets to minister to the least, the lost, the lonely and the left out.

On the Way Into Jerusalem

A cross, a crown of thorns, and 3 nails tell of the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth. The wheat at the bottom of the chalice reminds us of the passage from John 12: " I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." The chalice in the act of being poured out, just as Jesus' life was poured out for us, bids us to pour out our lives for others. The buildings are the artist's rendition of the city of Jerusalem.



Left: Loving God with Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength

12' x 7' woven ribbon, fabric, plastic and acrylic

*Created for Soulfeast 2010
Lake Junaluska, NC*

Loving God Well

Over 600 hours of labor and nearly \$1,000.00 of materials are invested in the making of this year's banner, "With Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength." Designed and created by Karla M. Kincannon, the banner consists of two woven panels using acrylic, fabric, and ribbon, each measuring 12 feet tall by 7 feet wide. The design of the top panel contains spaces, creating depth and allowing the design of the bottom panel to be visible. Both panels work together to create the images you see.

The use of reflective materials in the banner symbolizes how God's children reflect God's love to the world when we participate in acts of compassion, kindness, and beauty. As we love God with our whole being, God's light shines through us much like the light shines through the sections of the banner.

In the upper left quadrant the symbol of the heart reminds us to love God with all our heart. In the upper right quadrant the purple spiral symbolizes the soul, another faculty for loving God well. In the lower right quadrant the gold circle with "rays" extending from it represents the mind. Finally, in the lower left quadrant, a red and orange knot signifies strength. All our faculties are engaged in the transforming act of loving God well.



Above: *Invitation to Transformation*

Each 12 foot panel is acrylic on canvass, Created for *Soulfeast 2011*

Invitation to Transforming Love

The heart of God holds and transforms us gradually. The circle, a symbol of eternity represents the infinite love of God as experienced through the cross of Christ. The Celtic cross represents the rich tradition of embracing creation as a witness to God's love. The light green "y" in the upper right is the Greek letter *ipsilon*. The symbol sometimes represents the Trinity, and other times have been used as a symbol of free will. We are free to accept or reject the transforming love that is at work in our lives all the time.

Invitation to Transforming Discipleship

In the beginning of Christianity, followers of Christ called themselves, "sons of *Icthus*," *Icthus* is Greek for *fish*. The fish became a common secret sign among believers. It was thought that believers "swim" in the baptism of salvation. The shell and three drops of water represent baptism. The "x" and "p" that are part of the fish in the middle of the banner are the symbols for *Chi Rho*, derived from the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. The *Chi Rho* has been a symbol of Christianity since Constantine.

Invitation to Transforming Solitude

God often works in our lives as a refining fire. The flame of the Holy Spirit burns the dross so that the gold shines within us. While the experience of transformation can be painful, the end result is lead to increased joy and peace.

Invitation to Transforming Mission

The cross is formed of two double arrows, pointing in the four directions to remind us that transforming mission carries us into all corners of the world. The seeds planted in the rows of dirt, represent the work of faithful Christians. God is the harvester. The wheat recalls the body of Christ that is broken, for us. We share in Christ through transforming mission.

Invitation to Transforming Mystery

The four Hebrew consonants represent the name Yahweh, Israel's God. The name was so sacred that it was never spoken aloud. The "Y" in the middle of the banner is a letter of the Hebrew alphabet that represents the unutterable name of God. The "Y" is also the first letter of the name Jesus in Hebrew. The God who remains a mystery to us revealed Himself to us in Christ.