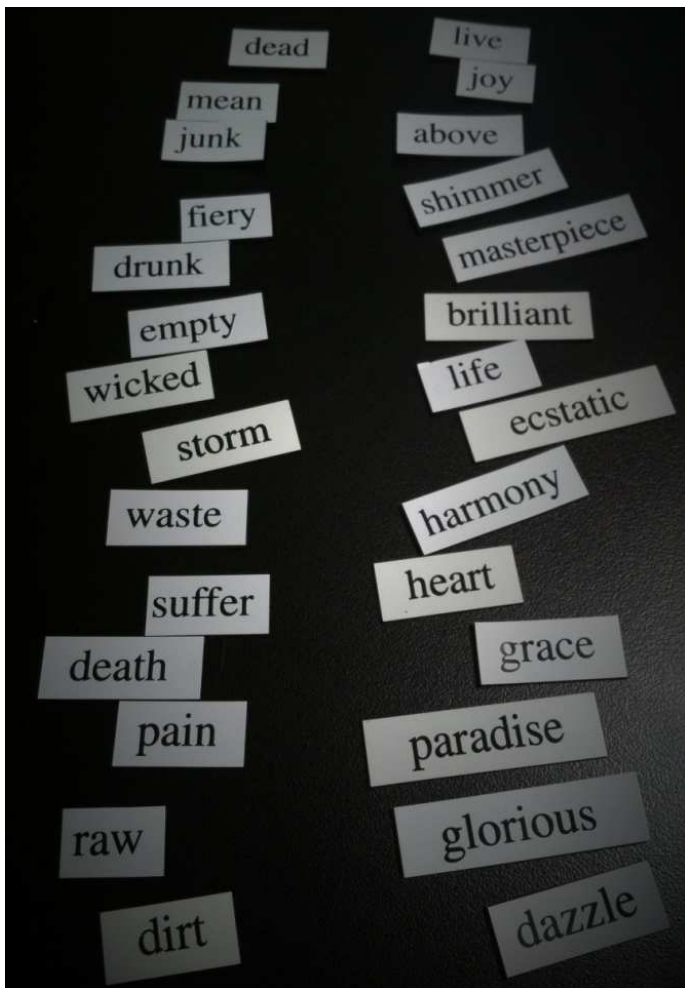


The Heart behind the Art



A Journey of Love

The Gallery @ Common Grounds
Living Word Community Church
April 2011

{the arts @ lwcc}

...affirms that, because we are created in the image of God, each person is gifted with some level of creativity. We believe we will encounter Jesus in new ways and will go deeper in relationship with God as we give time to explore and develop— individually, and in the context of spiritual community— the creative gifts He's given us.

Want to hear more?

Contact deAnn
(see info below)

the arts @ living word



www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com

the gallery @ common grounds

The Gallery @ Common Grounds, Living Word's Coffee Bar, is a venue for emerging and established artists to courageously share their heart-felt creative expression. Exhibits change approximately every six weeks.

We hope you encounter God through interacting with the art on display and we pray that you'll be inspired to discover the artist within yourself.

For more information about *The Gallery @ Common Grounds*, or to submit your work for consideration, contact **deAnn Roe**, *Director of Creative Arts*, at 755.0089 x126 or at droe@lwccyork.com.

The Passover Meal



As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it, for this is my body." And He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which seals the covenant between God and His people. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many. Mark my words, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom." Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives (Gethsemane).

People under the old covenant (those who lived before Jesus) could approach God only through a priest and an animal sacrifice. Here Jesus is telling His disciples about the approaching new covenant which *His* blood will seal.

Today, we take of the bread and the cup, called *communion*, as a reminder that because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can commune directly with God. We can also be thankful for the promise of His return.

Reference: Matthew 26:26-30

Garden Struggle

Jesus and His disciples had just finished eating the Passover meal when Jesus brought them to the olive grove called Gethsemane.

"My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and watch with me."

-Jesus to Peter and Zebedee in the olive grove

Jesus was in great anguish over his approaching physical pain and spiritual pain—being separated from the Father and death for the sins of the world. The divine course was set, but He, in His human nature, still struggled.

Jesus went a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying,
"My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken from me.
Yet I want Your will, not mine."

Not only did He know He'd die a painful death, He knew that because of the weight of a world of sin, He was going to be separated from the Father. This was more unbearable than physical death. Jesus took on our sins that Friday morning and suffered spiritual separation from God so that we would never have to know what that feels like. We will never be separated from God.

Reference: Matthew 26:37-38 and 39

The Kiss of Death

In the midst of a beautiful olive grove, as Jesus' prayers rose to meet the Father's ear, the end had begun.

Judas, one of the twelve disciplines, arrived with a mob that was armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent out by the leading priests and other leaders of the people. Judas had given them a prearranged signal:

"You will know which one to arrest when I go over and give him a kiss of greeting."

So Judas came straight to Jesus.

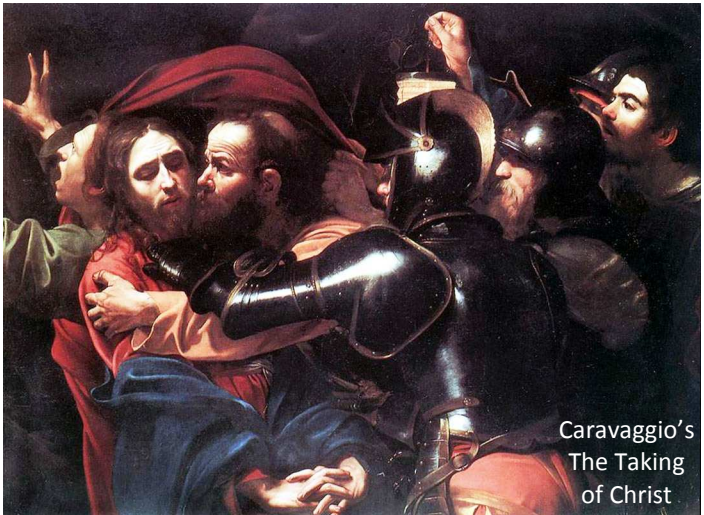
"Greetings, Teacher!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.

Jesus said,

"My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for."

Jesus says to His enemy, Judas, "My friend..."

Powerful.



Caravaggio's
The Taking
of Christ

Reference: Matthew 26:47-50

In Denial

In the darkness, the flickering light of a warm campfire lit up Peter's face just enough for one of the high priest's servant girls to say,

"You were one of those with Jesus, the Nazarene."

Peter said, "I don't know what you are talking about." The rooster crowed.

"That man is definitely one of them!" Peter denied it again.

A bit later some others said to Peter,

"You must be one of them because you are from Galilee."

Peter said,

"I swear by God, I don't know this man you're talking about."

And immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind:

"Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

And Peter broke down and cried.

Despite Peter's many failures, Jesus loved him, just as He loves each of us, despite our failures.

In fact, in John 21: 15-19, when Jesus appears to the disciples after resurrection, He challenges Peter, asking him three times if he loves Him. Three times Peter replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love You." Jesus replied, "Then feed my sheep."

Jesus reinstated Peter.

Hail! King of the Jews!

Jesus saw many people before this dark night was over. The council of religious leaders bound Jesus and took him to Pilate.

Pilate was anxious to please the crowds who were yelling "Crucify Him!!" He ordered Jesus to be flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned Him over to the Roman soldiers.

The Roman soldiers took Him into their headquarters and
called out the entire battalion.

They dressed Him in a purple robe and
made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on His head.

Then they saluted, yelling, "Hail! King of the Jews!"

And they beat Him on the head with a stick,

spit on Him,

and dropped to their knees in mock worship.

Falsely accused, tried, and convicted of lies. However, speaking the truth...while being the Truth.

I wonder if Jesus got any rest that night. Bleeding ribs covered his body, maybe the physical pain was too much to bear and rest was impossible. Plus, He knew what the new dawn would hold for Him—being nailed to a cross and hung high for all to see. More suffering is yet to come...

It Is Finished

It was nine o'clock in the morning when the crucifixion began. Nails through each hand and both feet, high in the air, He hung alongside two condemned criminals. Innocence among the guilty. Jesus knew that the physical pain He was enduring was about to end. However, the spiritual pain He sweated blood over was about to begin.

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

Then, at that time, Jesus called out with a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

which means,

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

A sponge soaked in sour wine was lifted to Jesus' mouth.

When He tasted it, He said, "It is finished."

Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

By afternoon, He did what He came to do.

Tetelestai - "It is finished."

Done.

Complete.

Reference: Mark 15:33-34 and John 19:29-30

The Darkest Friday

It's not known why darkness fell from noon to three o'clock, but it is clear that God caused it. Nature testified to the gravity of Jesus' death. That day, the earth shifted on all levels.

When Jesus gave up His spirit, the curtain in the Temple
was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The earth shook, rocks split apart and tombs opened.

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened.

They said,

"Truly, this was the Son of God!"

The death that Jesus experienced is a death we never have to endure. Not only was His death a physical death, of His human flesh and blood, it was a spiritual death, a temporary separation from God due to taking on the sins of the world. Alienation from God was the ultimate torture. This is something we'll never know because Jesus did this for us.

A heavy curtain hung in front of the Temple room called the **Holy of Holies**, a place reserved by God for Himself. The room was entered only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, by the high priest as he made a blood sacrifice to gain forgiveness for the sins of the nation.

This curtain was torn in two as Jesus took His last breath...

I wonder if the religious leaders were petrified and concerned as to what, or who, tore the curtain in the Temple.

The Brightest Sunday

I would imagine that Jesus' followers, *and even His enemies*, didn't get much sleep Friday and Saturday night. Hearts were heavy, weeping for the One they believed was going to rescue them from Roman oppression. But, Jesus was dead. Gone. Silent. Their doubts confirmed, He wasn't the Son of God as He said.

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb. Suddenly there was a
great earthquake, because an angel of the Lord came down from
heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it.

Then the angel spoke to the women,
"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus,
who was crucified. He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead,
just as He said it would happen."

In an instant, their frightened grief turned to complete joy! He is risen!
And the women ran away to find the disciples to share this exciting
news with them.

As they rushed to the disciples, Jesus met the women,
"Greetings!" He said.
And they ran to Him, held His feet, and worshiped Him.

Jesus rose from the dead and revealed Himself to many people before
ascending to heaven to sit in the place of Honor at God's right hand.

Restored Relationship

Blood spilled from Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice. The curtain to the **Holy of Holies** was torn in two symbolizing that the barrier between God and humanity has been removed. This opened up the way for us to be in relationship with our God.

So, Christ has now become our High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world. Once and for all time He took blood into the Holy of Holies, but not the blood of goats and calves. He took His own blood, and with it He secured our salvation forever.

Jesus is our High Priest.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Through His death and resurrection, our relationship with God has been restored. We now have access to the Father.

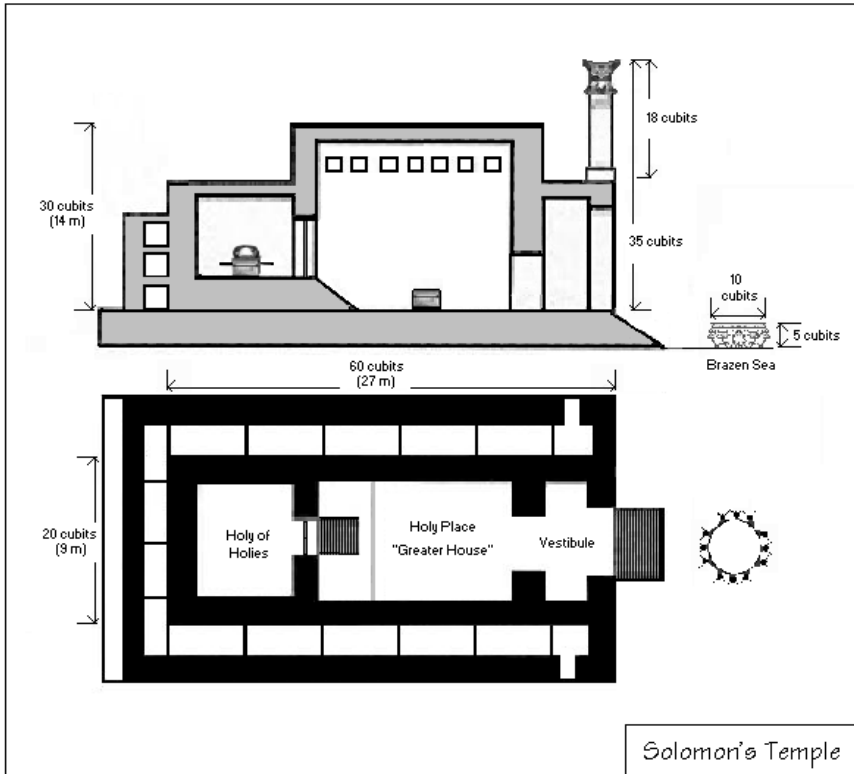
Anytime.

Anywhere.

Read Hebrews 9 on the following pages for a complete explanation about the old rules of worship and the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus. It's quite fascinating.

Reference: Hebrew 9:11-12, John 14:6

Solomon's Temple



Hebrews 9 (NLT)

Old Rules about Worship

¹ That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth. ² There were two rooms in that Tabernacle. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. ³ Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Holy of Holies. ⁴ In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement.

⁶ When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties. ⁷ But only the high priest ever entered the Holy of Holies, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. ⁸ By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Holy of Holies was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use.

⁹ This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. ¹⁰ For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established.

Christ Is the Perfect Sacrifice

¹¹ So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. ¹² With His own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—He entered the Holy of Holies once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

¹³ Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. ¹⁴ Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. ¹⁵ That is why He is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

¹⁶ Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that
Continued...

Hebrews 9 (NLT)

the person who made it is dead.¹⁷ The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect.

¹⁸ That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal. ¹⁹ For after Moses had read each of God's commandments to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God's law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool. ²⁰ Then he said, "This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you." ²¹ And in the same way, he sprinkled blood on the Tabernacle and on everything used for worship. ²² In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

²³ That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.

²⁴ For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.

²⁵ And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. ²⁶ If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

²⁷ And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

Note: The Tabernacle was a movable tent, a place of worship for the wandering Israelites. The first Temple was built in Jerusalem under King Solomon in the 10th century to be a permanent place of worship.

2011 Gallery Schedule

- ◇ January "Being Made"
- ◇ February "still...life" ~ Photography
- ◇ March "Silhouette of Grace" ~ Global Missions Focus
- ◇ April "A Journey of Love"- Last Supper to Resurrection
- ◇ May Featured Artist: Joe Kelly
- ◇ June/July "Meet the Staff"
- ◇ July/Aug Featured Artist: John Bergmeier
- ◇ Sept "KidsArt 4.0"
- ◇ October Featured Artist: Fiel Patricio
- ◇ Nov Honored to Serve
- ◇ Nov/Jan Featured Artist: Joseph Becker

[Exhibit themes are subject to change. But we hope they don't.]

attention writers & poets

inklings



celebrating the art of written expression -
composed by people from the LivingWord Community Church family

Summer Edition: July - September 2009

We are collecting written pieces for the July Inklings publication. If you are a writer or poet, please send your piece via email to deAnn, droe@lwccyork.com.

Deadline is Monday, June 20

Hurry and submit your work. July's edition will be out before we know it and you don't want to miss it!

The Studio Artists' Group

Meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:00—8:30 PM in the Coffee Bar rooms E & F at Living Word Community Church.

Contact deAnn Roe with questions:
droe@lwccyork.com or 755-0089 x126.



You can find

The Arts @ Living Word

on Facebook



Wednesday Pages Writing Group

Meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00—8:30 PM in the Coffee Bar rooms E & F at Living Word Community Church. Bring your laptop or notebook and a writing project you've been working on OR we'll have writing prompts for you to choose from.

Contact deAnn Roe with questions:
droe@lwccyork.com or 755-0089 x126.

Transforming Arts

Each of us is created in the image of God, the Master Creator and Artist. Therefore, we too, have the ability to create beauty that brings Glory to Him. *That* is the real purpose of art.

Often, our “inner critic” speaks loudly in our mind. We ignore the creative longing buried deep in our heart—the desire to paint, write, sculpt, draw, whatever creative interest He’s given us. When we ignore this longing, we rob ourselves of an opportunity to develop a God-given facet that’s vital to who we are.

Art is an expression of the human heart. Creating can be a form of heartfelt prayer and worship, a time where you encounter the Creator Himself and transformation occurs in the heart of the artist.

Not only does God speak to our hearts through our own creative endeavors, He uses what we create to speak to others who encounter and interact with it.

It’s amazing, beautiful, and mysterious.

deAnn Roe

deAnn Roe
Director of Creative Arts
Living Word Community Church
droe@lwccyork.com 717.755.0089 x126

The Arts Lending Library

There are many books on creativity and writing available to borrow from **The Arts Lending Library.** Contact deAnn to check one out. Literally.



the arts @ living word



www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com

This booklet is created as a companion piece to

the gallery @ common grounds

exhibit at Living Word Community Church



Living Word

COMMUNITY CHURCH

2530 Cape Horn Road

Red Lion, PA 17313

717.755. 0089

www.lwccyork.com