

STICKS AND STONES

Linda Witte Henke

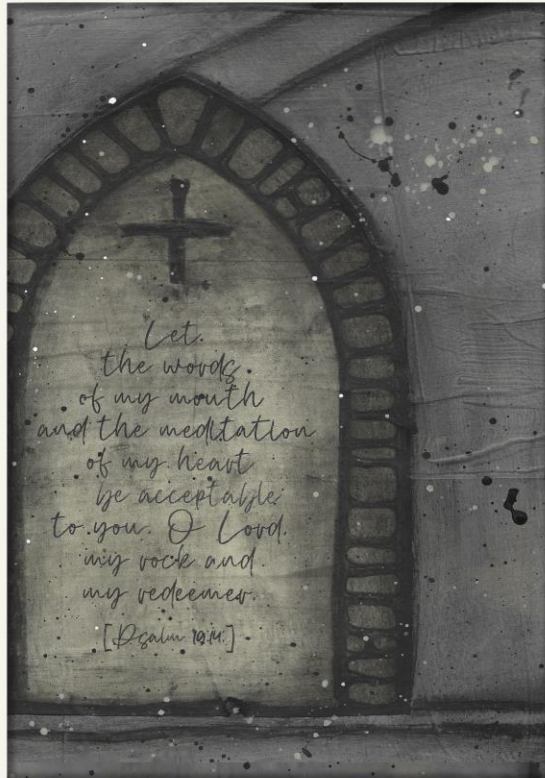
STICKS AND STONES

*Sticks and stones may break my bones,
but words can never hurt me.*

This series began as a lament over the deterioration in the tone of public discourse in our nation, but it grew into a broader exploration of the impact of words in all human relationships.

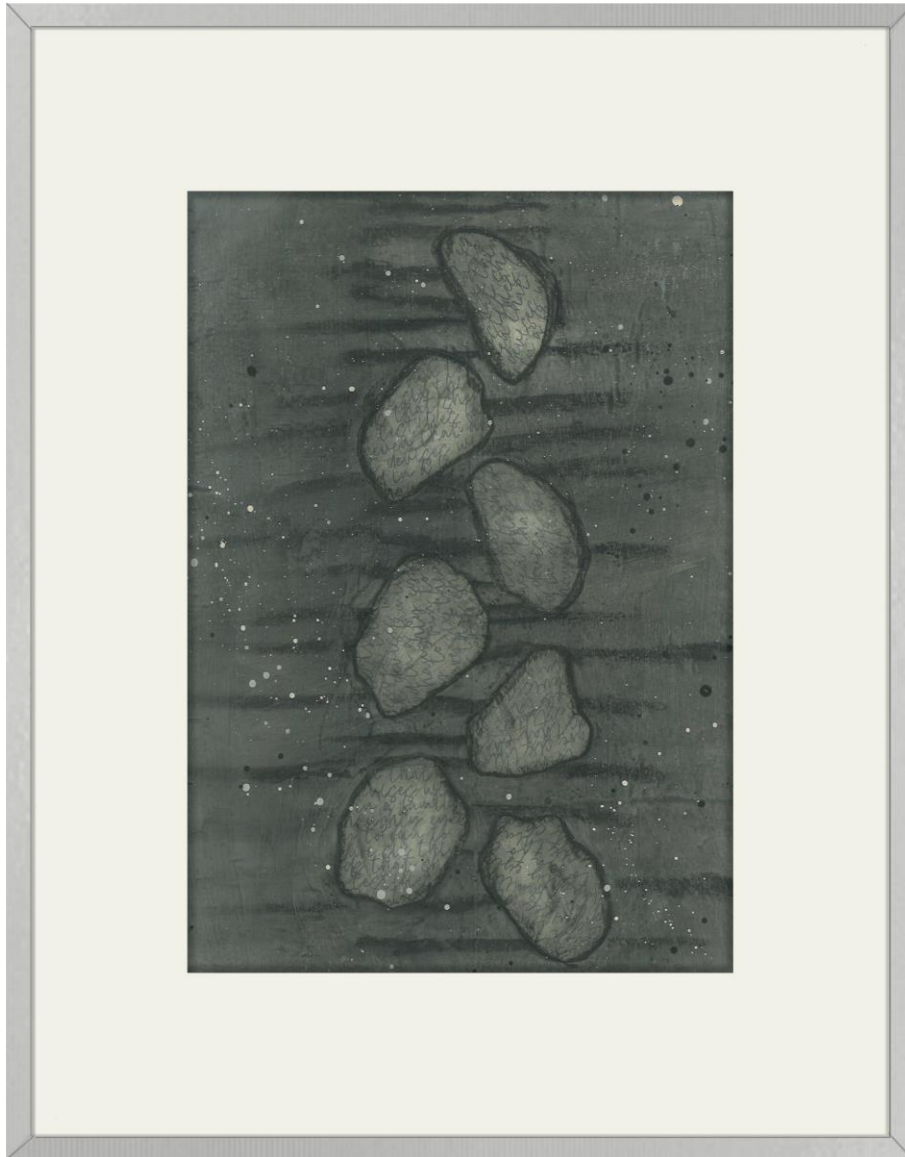
Embracing a collage method, I created the works from a variety of repurposed papers -- books, hymnals, maps, bibles, musical scores, phone books, catalogs, magazines, etc. -- in combination with surface-design and print-making techniques. Each work features a quotation that invites reflection on the significance of human verbal expression.

My hope is that the series may heighten awareness that even our most casual uses of words can and do affect others in profound and enduring ways.



Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditations of my heart,
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my strength and my redeemer.

[Psalm 19:14]



There are six things
that the Lord hates,
seven that are
an abomination to him:
haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that hurry to run to evil,
a lying witness who testifies falsely,
and one who sows discord
in a family.

[Proverbs 6:16-19]



It is foolish to belittle another;
a person with good sense
remains silent.

[Proverbs 11:12]



Those who are kind
reward themselves,
but the cruel
do themselves harm.
[Proverbs 11:17]



A gentle answer
turns away wrath,
but a harsh word
stirs up anger.

[Proverbs 15:1]



Gentle words
bring life and health.
[Proverbs 15:4]



Pleasant words
are like honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul
and health to the body.
[Proverbs 16:24]



The words of the mouth
can be life-giving waters;
words of true wisdom
are as refreshing
as a bubbling brook.

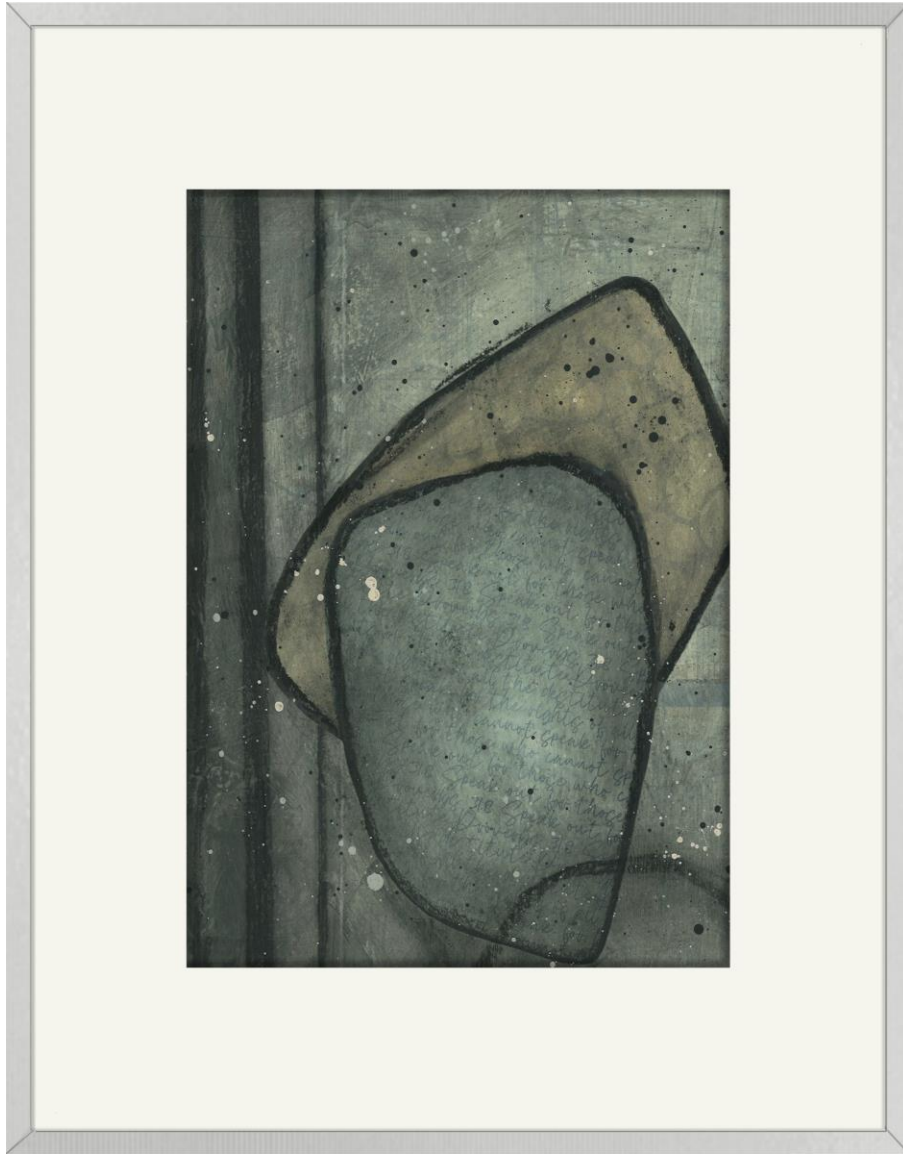
[Proverbs 18:4]



There is gold,
and abundance of costly stones;
but the lips informed by
knowledge are a precious jewel.
[Proverbs 20:15]



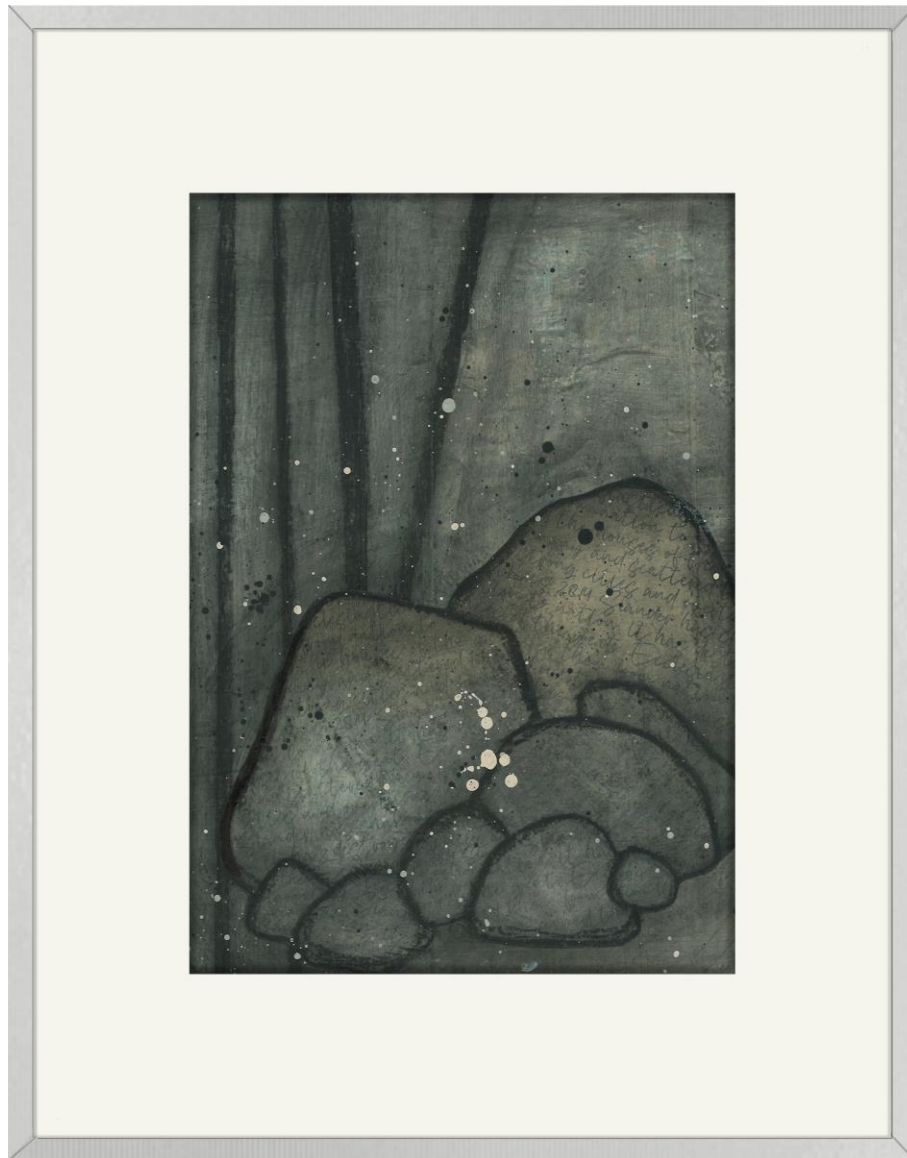
Like a war club,
a sword,
or a sharp arrow,
is one who
bears false witness
against a neighbor.
[Proverbs 25:18]



Speak out for those
who cannot speak.
[Proverbs 31:8]



A fool's chatter
is like a burdensome journey,
but delight is found
in the speech of the intelligent.
[Ecclesiastes 21:16]



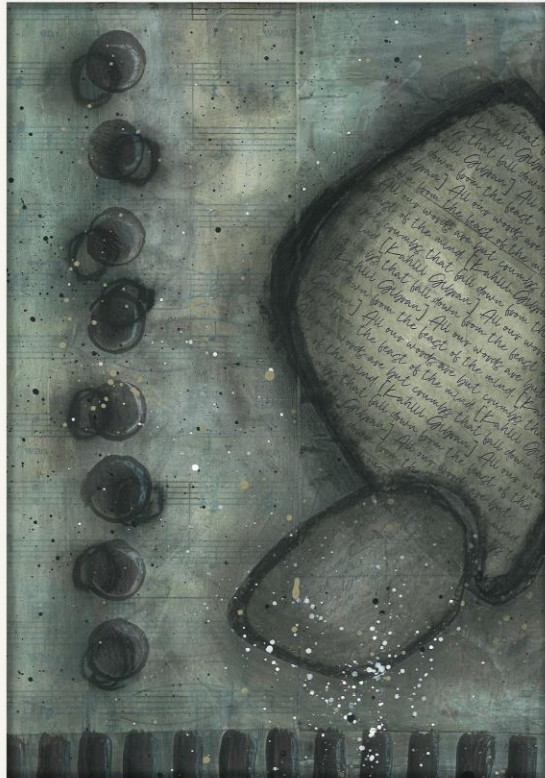
Curse the gossips
and the double-tongued,
for they destroy
the peace of many.

[Ecclesiastes 28:13]



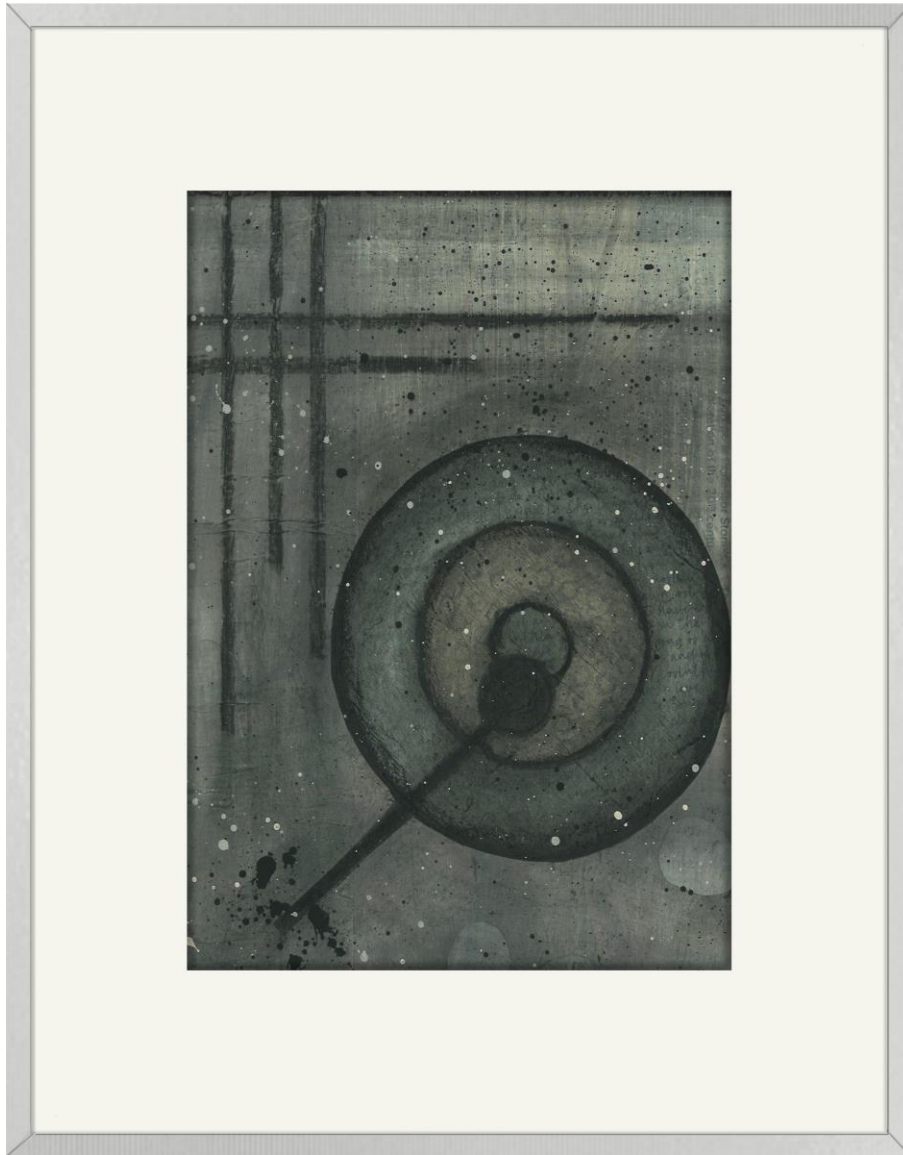
The blow of a whip
raises a welt;
the blow of the tongue
crushes the bones.

[Ecclesiastes 28:17]



Beware then
of useless grumbling,
and keep your tongue
from slander;
because no secret word
is without result,
and a lying mouth
destroys the soul.

[Wisdom of Solomon 1:11]

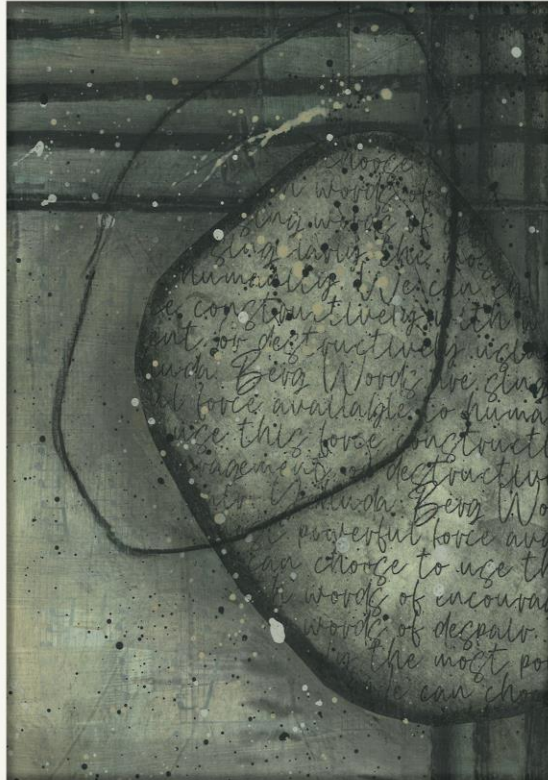


If I speak in the tongues
of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong
or a clanging cymbal.
[1 Corinthians 13:1]



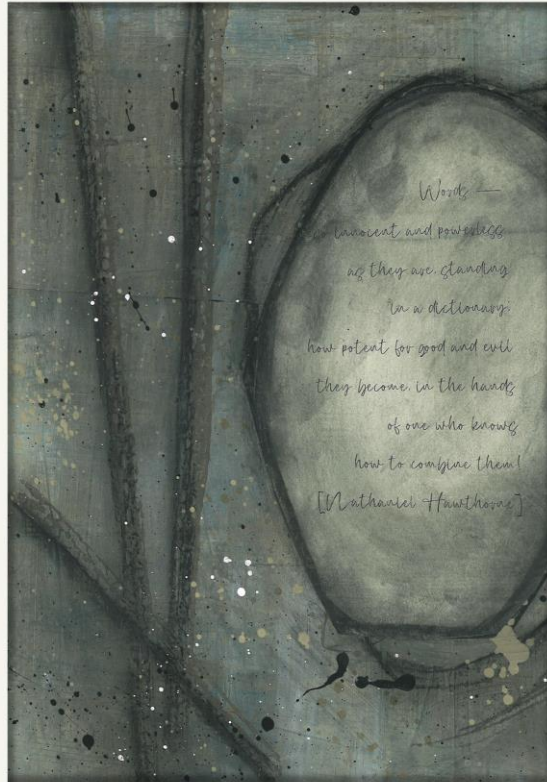
With this faith,
we will be able to hew
out of the mountain of despair
a stone of hope.

[Martin Luther King, Jr.]

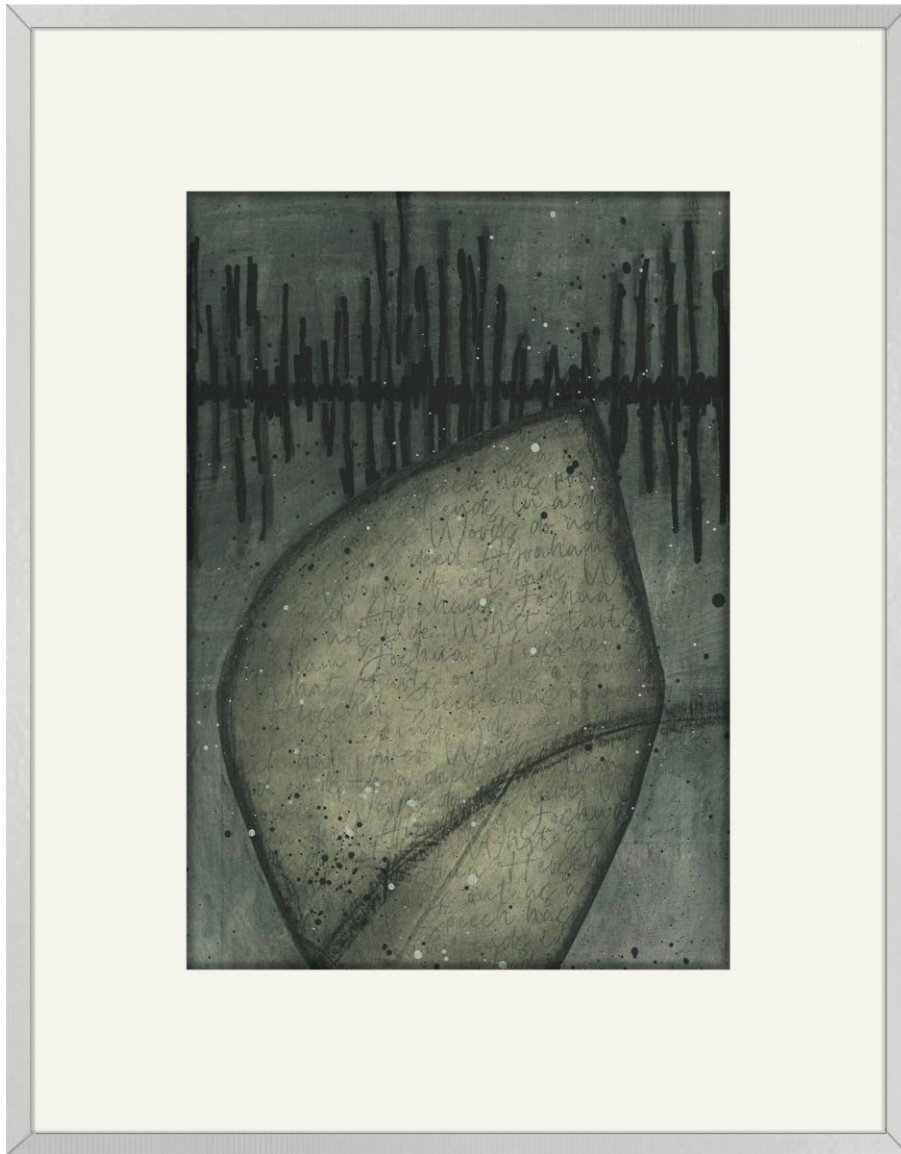


Words are singularly
the most powerful force
available to humanity.
We can choose
to use this force constructively
with words of encouragement,
or destructively
using words of despair.

[Yehuda Berg]



Words –
so innocent and powerless
as they are standing
in a dictionary;
how potent for good and evil
they become
in the hands of one
who knows how
to combine them.
[Nathaniel Hawthorne]



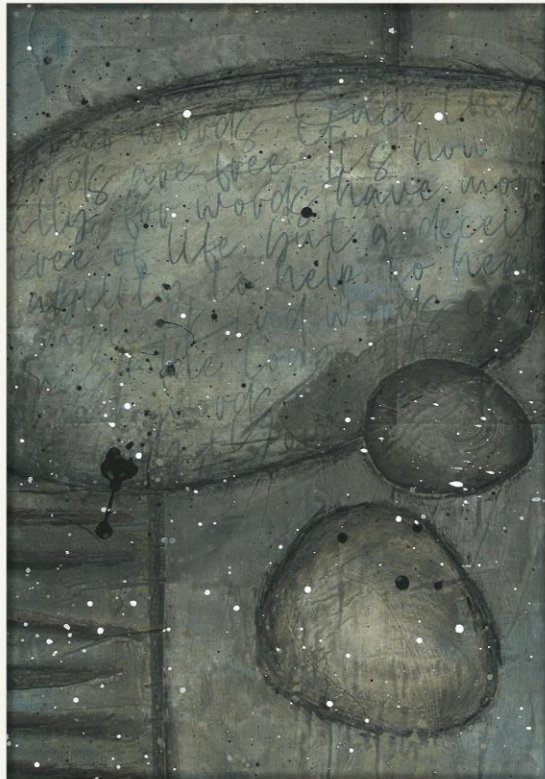
Speech has power.
Words do not fade.
What starts out as a sound,
ends in a deed.

[Abraham Joshua Herschel]



Be careful of the words you say;
keep them short and sweet.
You never know, from day to day,
which ones you'll have to eat.

[Anonymous]



Handle them carefully,
for words have more power
than atom bombs.

[Pearl Strachan Hurd]

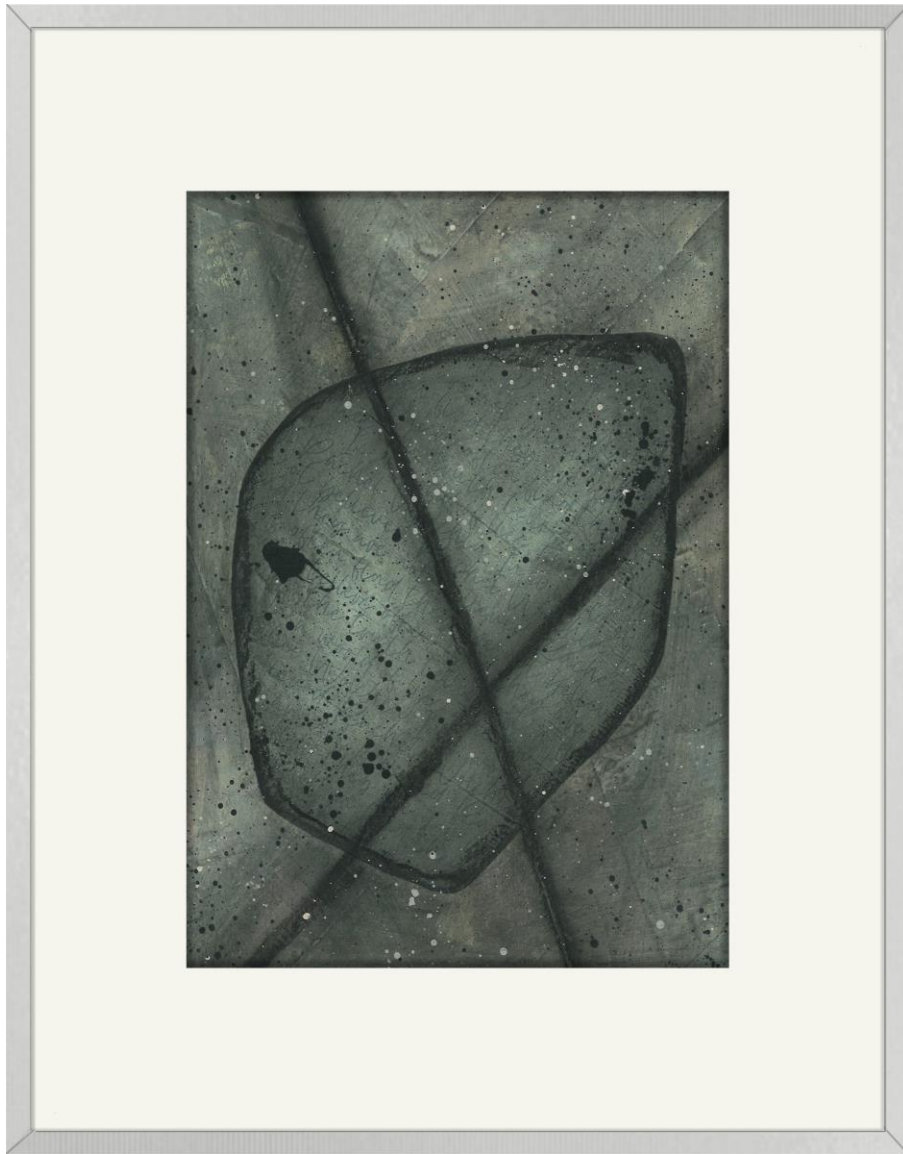


Be silent
or let your words
be worth more than silence.
[Pythagoras]



Kind words are a creative force,
a power that concurs
in the building up of all that is good,
and energy that showers
blessings upon the world.

[Lawrence G. Lovasik]



In a world of lies,
truth tellers often find
they are not believed.
[Rachel Wolchin]



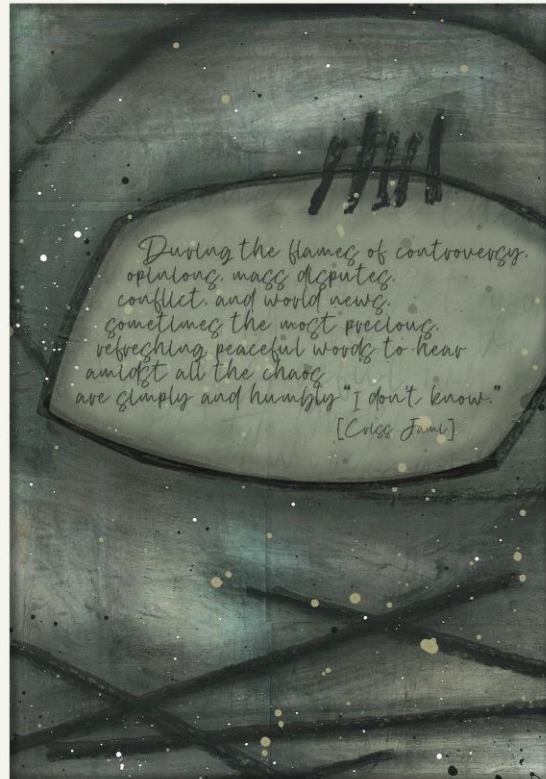
The tongue has no bones,
but it is strong enough
to break a heart.

[Irina Swart]



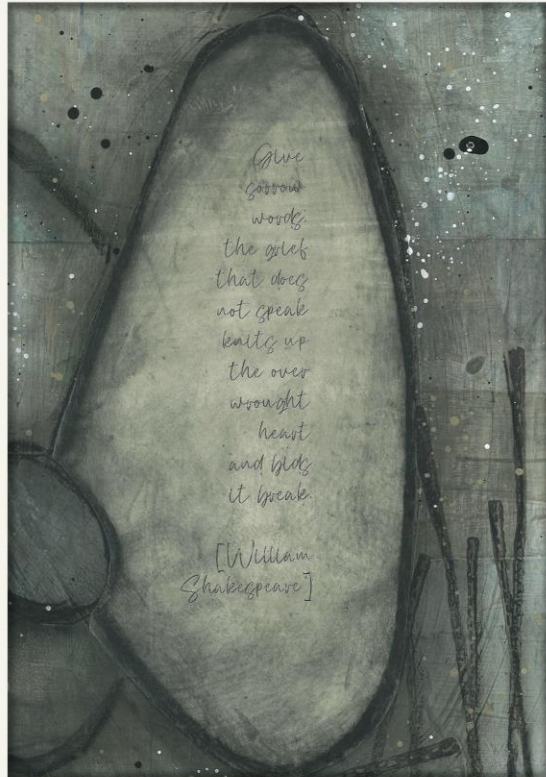
Watch your thoughts,
they become your words;
watch your words,
they become your actions;
watch your actions,
they become your habits;
watch your habits,
they become your character;
watch your character,
it becomes your destiny.

[Lao Tzu]



During the flames of controversy,
opinions, mass disputes,
conflict, and world news,
sometimes the most precious,
refreshing, peaceful words to hear
amidst all the chaos
are simply and humbly
"I don't know."

[Criss Jami]



Give sorrow words;
the grief that does not speak
knits up
the overwrought heart
and bids it break.
[William Shakespeare]



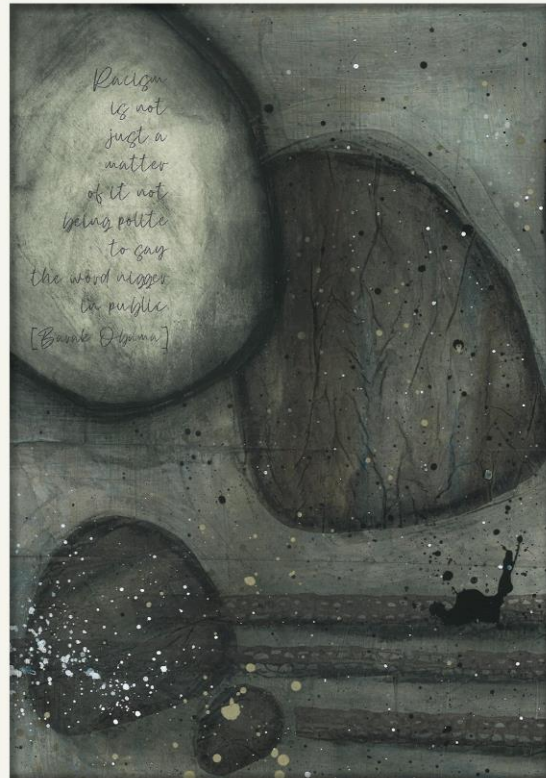
To sin by silence
when they should protest
makes cowards of men.
[Abraham Lincoln]



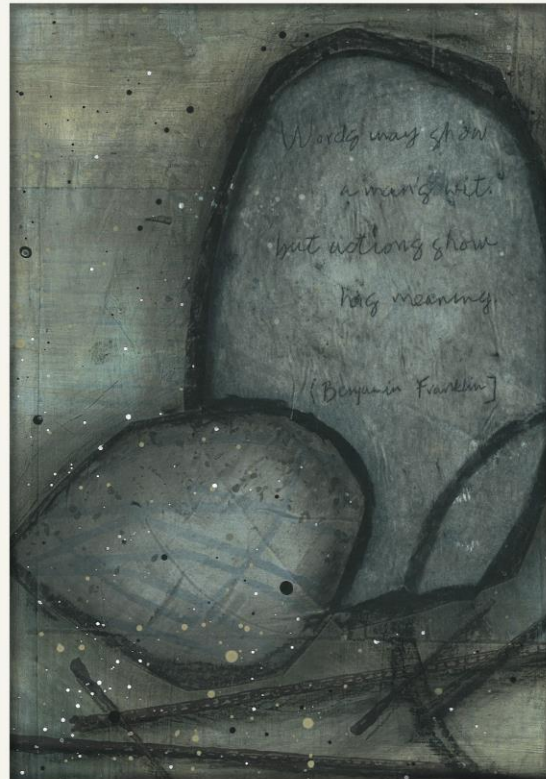
All our words
are but crumbs
that fall down
from the feast of our minds.
[Khalil Gibran]



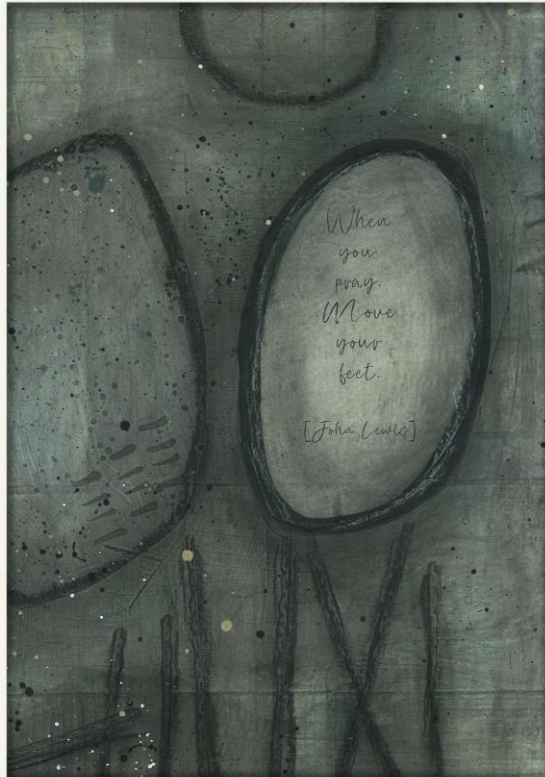
Colors fade,
temples crumble,
empires fall,
but wise words endure.
[Edward Thorndike]



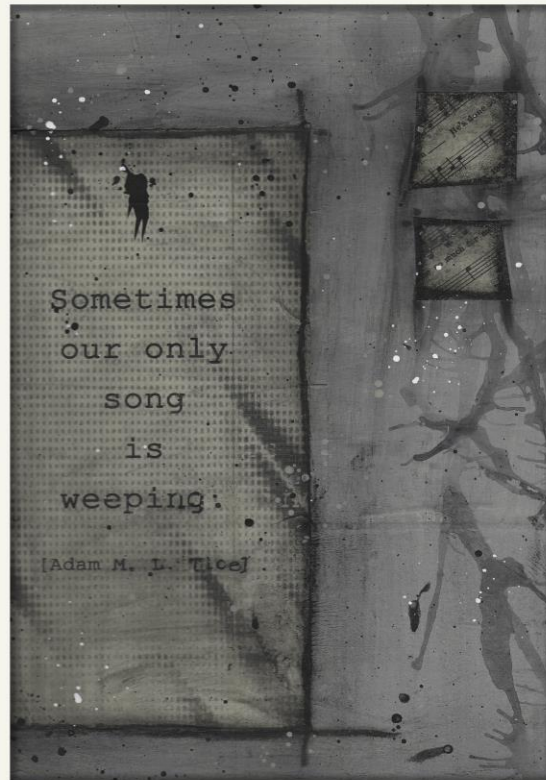
Racism is not just
a matter of it
not being polite
to say nigger in public.
[Barak Obama]



Words may show
man's wit,
but actions
show his meaning.
[Benjamin Franklin]



When you pray,
move with your feet.
[John Lewis]



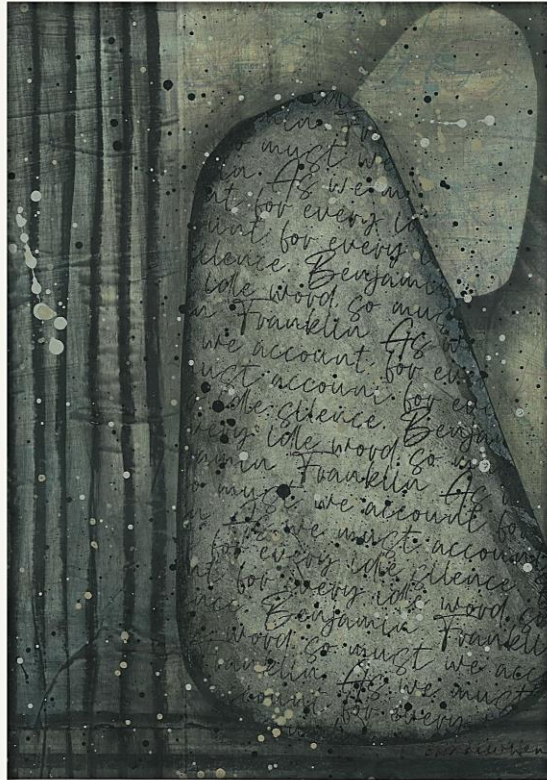
Sometimes our only song is weeping;
our only sound is gasping breath.
Sometimes it seems that God is sleeping
while our brief lives are bound in death.
Who hears the song our sorrows swallow
and offers hope to calm our fears?
When all our words seem frail and hollow,
God heeds the prayers within our tears.

Sometimes we catch the faintest humming,
a far-off tune our hearts know well.
Sometimes we sense the Spirit coming.
Our song returns; our voices swell.
The Spirit sings though we are shaken,
and Christ has shared our heart-felt cries.
Restored, our weary souls awaken
to join God's song that never dies.

[Adam M. L. Tice]



There are times
when the world
is rearranging itself,
and at times like that,
the right words
can change the world.
[Orson Scott Card]



As we must account
for every idle word,
so must we account
for every idle silence.
[Benjamin Franklin]



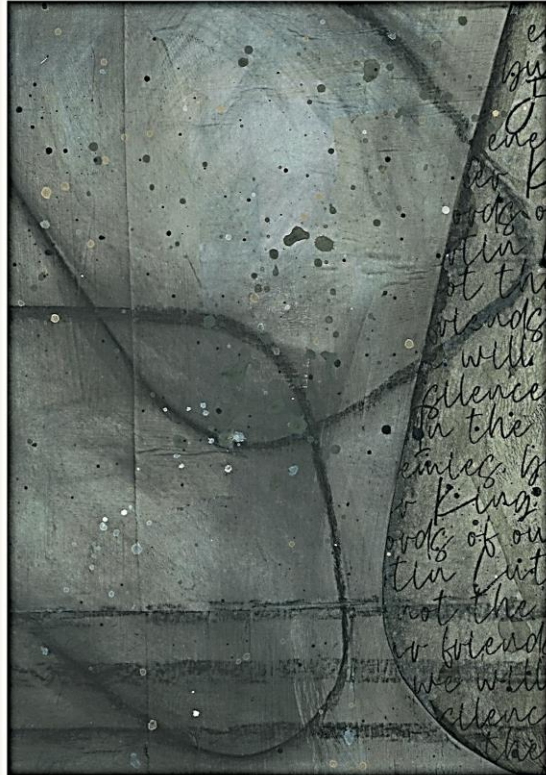
Be mindful
when it comes to your words.
A string of some
that don't mean much to you
may stick with someone else
for a lifetime.

[Rachel Wolchin]

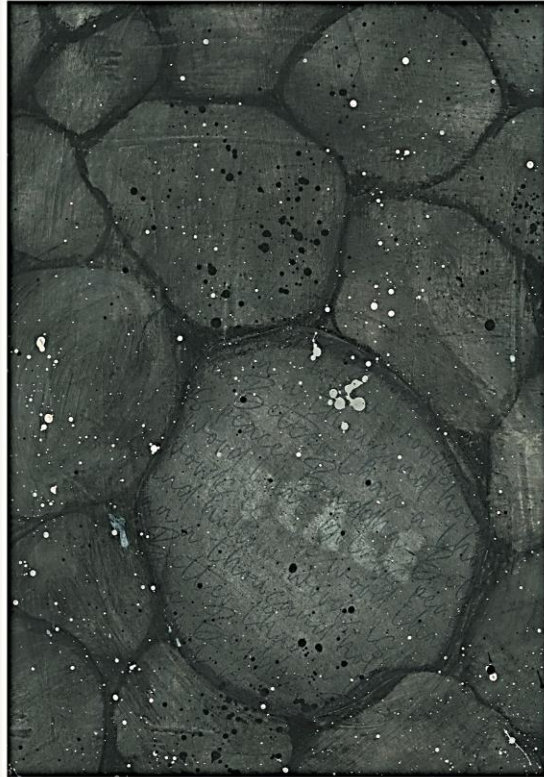


A broken bone can heal,
but the wound a word opens
can fester forever.

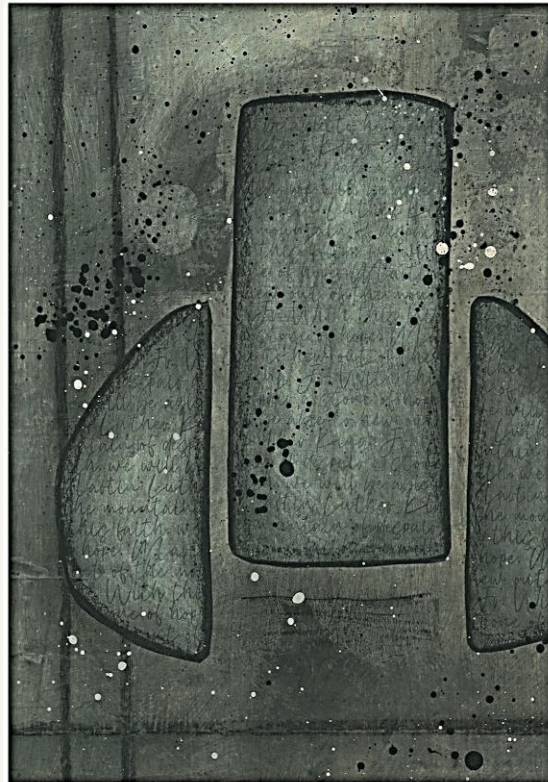
[Jessamyn West]



In the end,
we remember not
the words of our enemies
but the silence of our friends.
[Martin Luther King, Jr.]

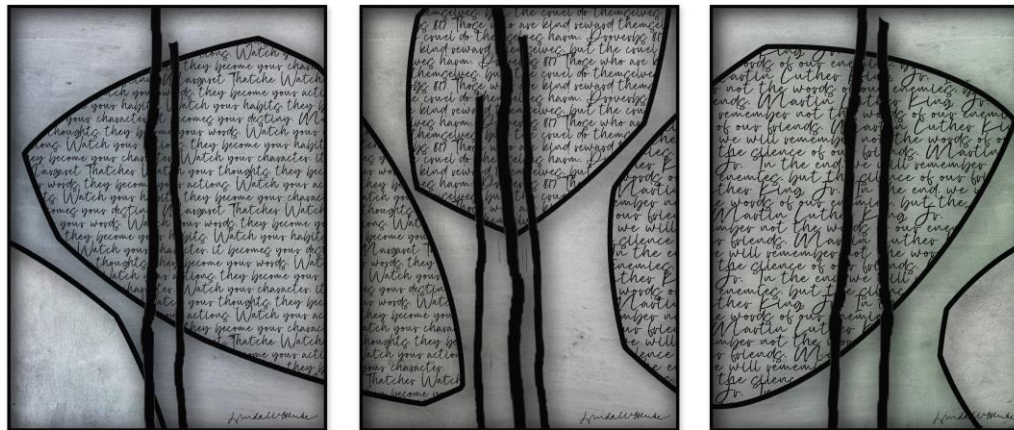


Better than
a thousand hollow words
is one word
that brings peace.
[Buddha]



With this faith,
we will be able to hew
out of the mountain of despair
a stone of hope.

[Martin Luther King, Jr.]



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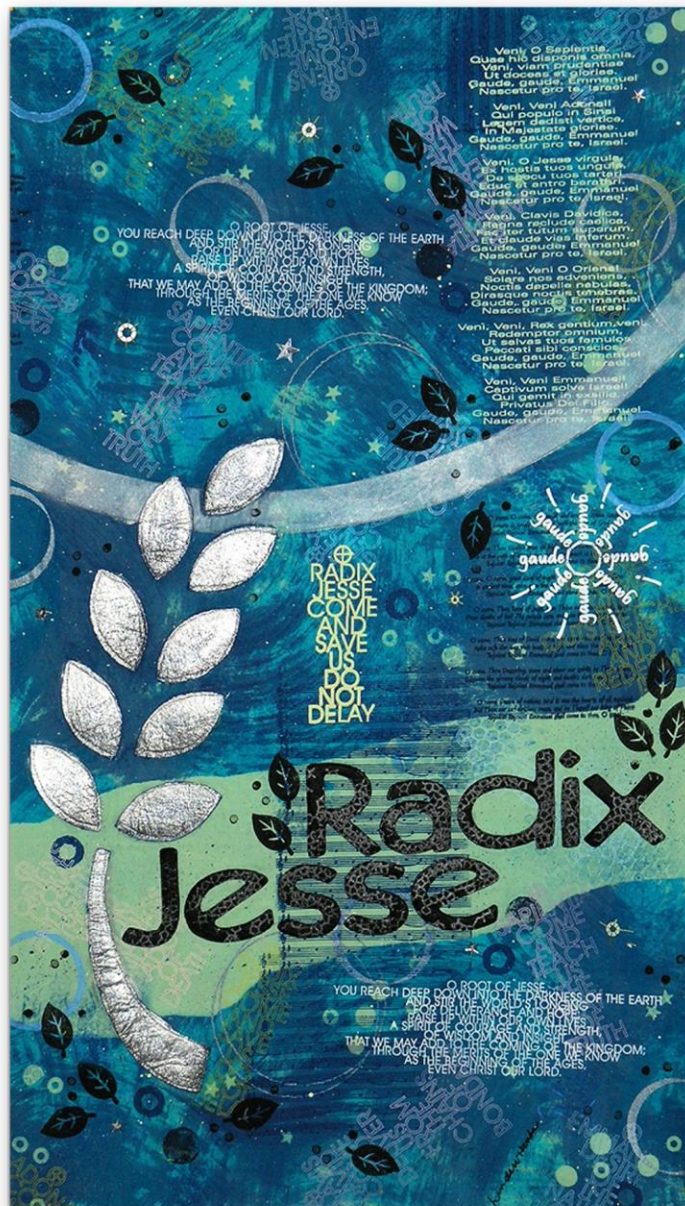
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The Great O Antiphons



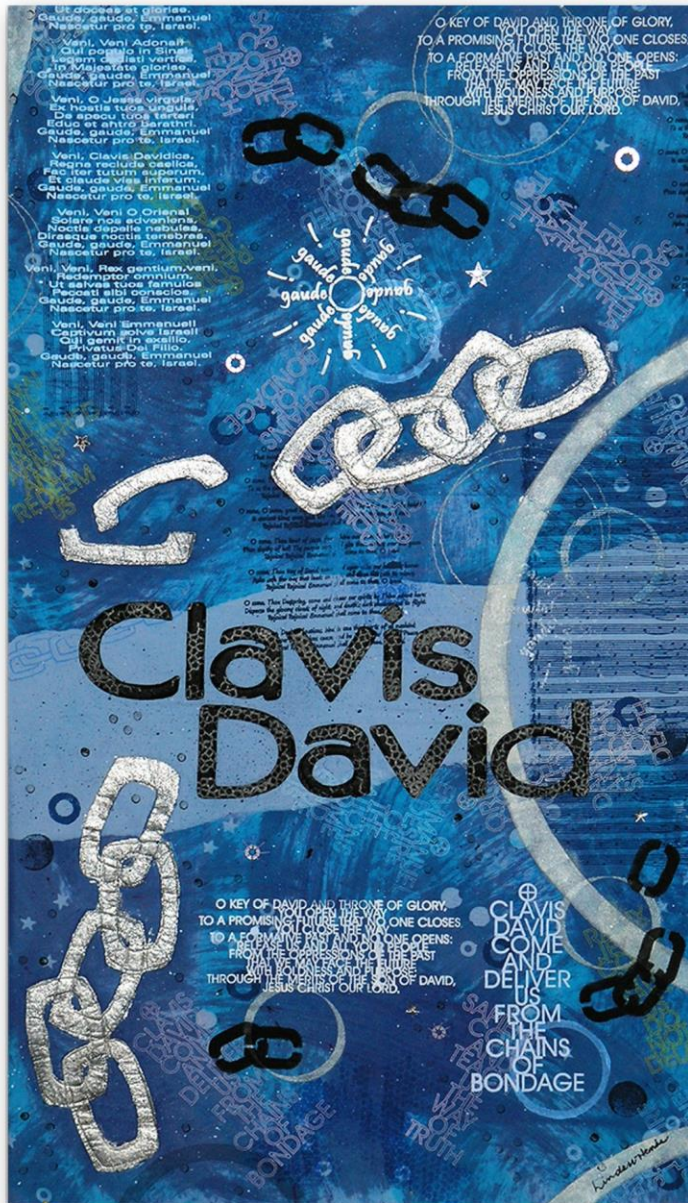
The Great O Antiphons is a seven-piece installation inspired by the ancient Advent collects of the same name. Dating back to the fourth or fifth centuries, the prayers address God using several Old Testament names and express a growing sense of urgency for the Messiah's coming, giving voice to human longings that are as relevant today as they were in centuries past.

The installation dimension of the collection is 176 inches wide by 41 inches high. In particular demand during the Advent season, this collection is frequently reserved several liturgical cycles in advance.



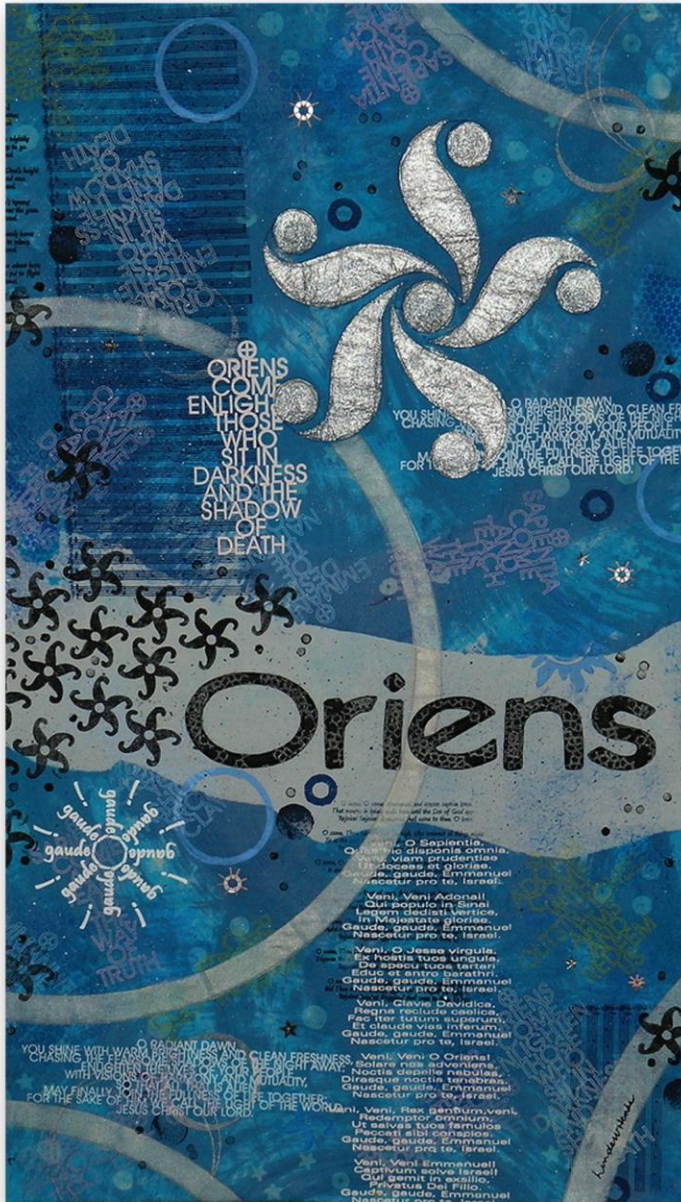
Radix Jesse - Root of Jesse

you reach deep down into the darkness of the earth
and stir the world's longings for deliverance and hope:
raise up within our own lives
a spirit of courage and strength,
of wisdom and insight,
that we may add to the coming of the kingdom;
through the merits of the One we know
as the Beginning of the Ages,
even Christ our Lord. Amen.



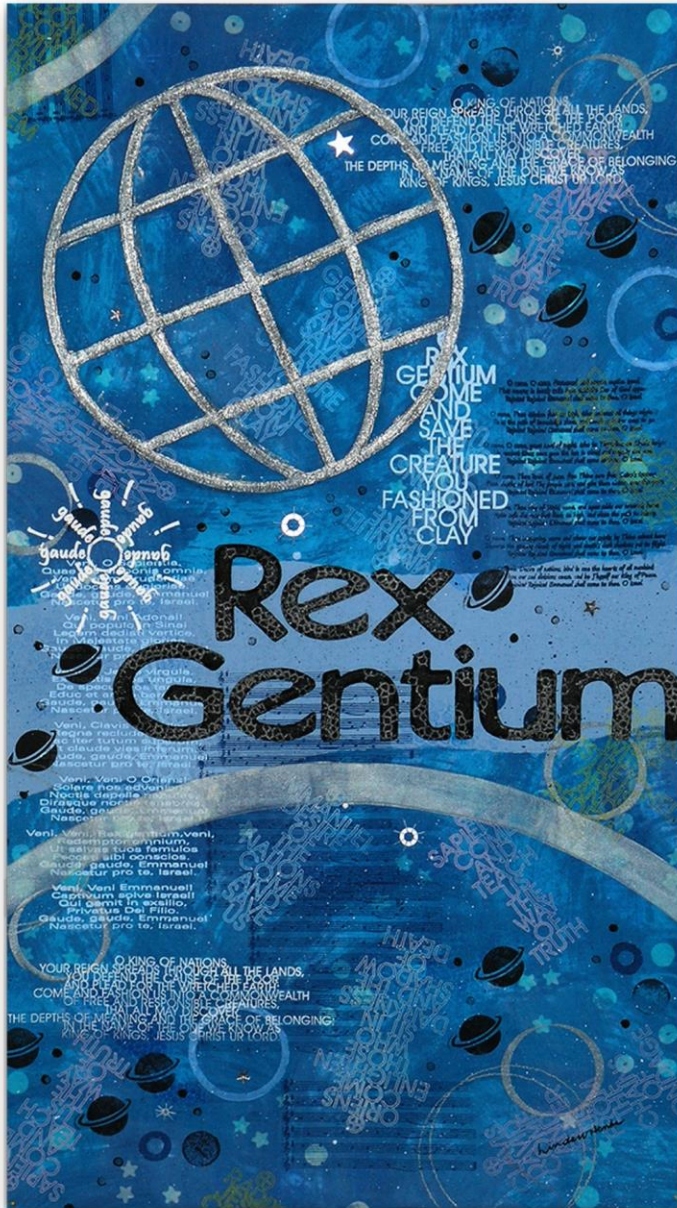
Clavis David - Key of David

you open the way
to a promising future that no one closes;
you close the way
to a formative past and no one opens:
release us and all your people
from the oppressions of the past
that we may face the future with boldness and purpose;
through the merits of the Son of David,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



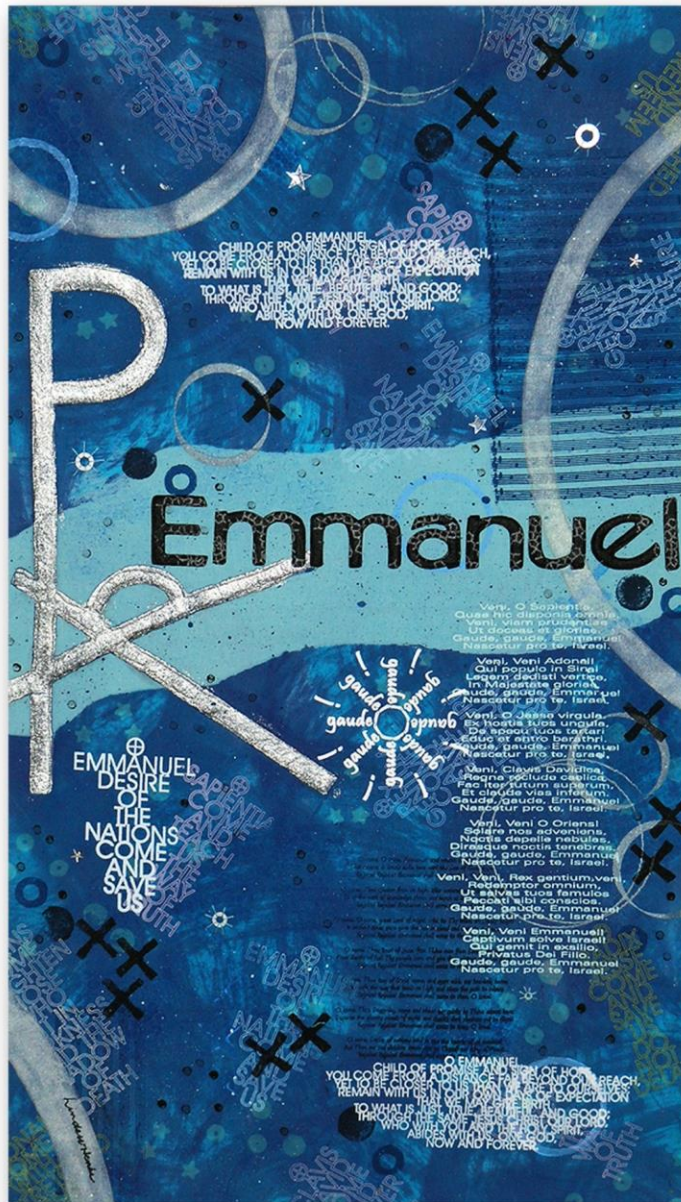
Oriens - Radiant Dawn

you shine with warm brightness and clean freshness,
 chasing the fearsome shadows of the night away:
 enlighten the lives of your people
 with visions of harmony and mutuality,
 so that all that is alien
 may finally join in the fullness of life together;
 for the sake of the One we call the Light of the World,
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Rex Gentium Ruler of all People

your reign spreads through all the lands
 as you defend the cause of the poor
 and plead for the wretched of the earth:
 come and fashion us into
 a commonwealth of free and responsible creatures,
 that all may discover the depths of meaning
 and the grace of belonging;
 in the name of the One we know as King of Kings,
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Emmanuel - God with Us

Child of Promise and Sign of Hope,
you come from a distance far beyond our reach,
yet to be closer to us than we are to ourselves:
remain with us in our own days of expectation
that we may give birth
to what is just, true, beautiful, and good;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit, abides with us,
one God now and forever. Amen.



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Passion Pilgrimage

Journey along the Way of the Cross



The *Passion Pilgrimage: Journey along the Way of the Cross* collection features 18 small works measuring approximately 12 inches by 13 inches, with each work highlighting a signpost in Jesus' journey from Passion Sunday to Easter.

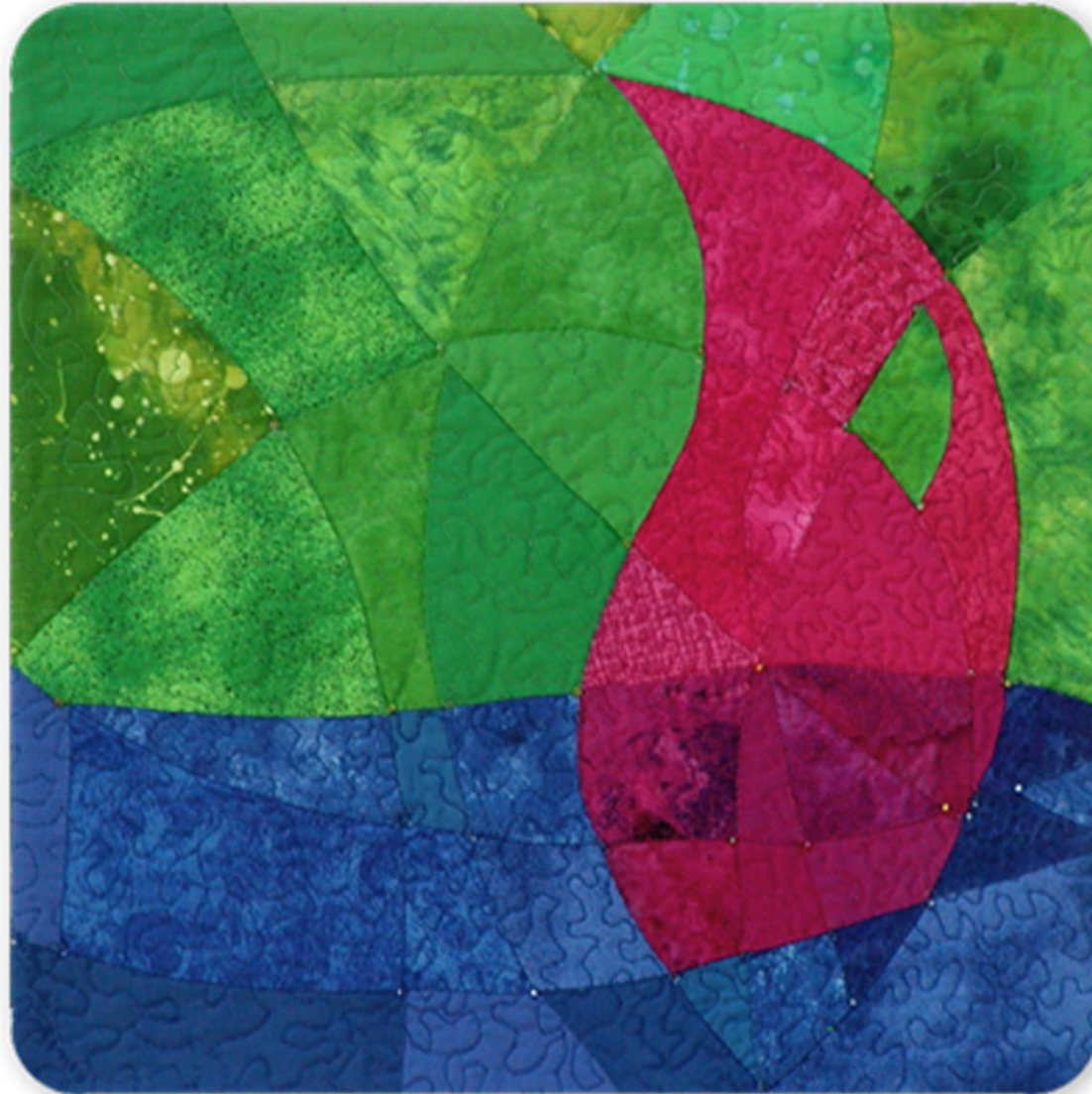
The collection lends itself to a variety of installation schema, the most effective of which is a linear format that allows "space" between the works and cultivates an experience of devotional pilgrimage. This collection is in particular demand during the Lenten season.



I — PARADE:
Jesus Enters Jerusalem



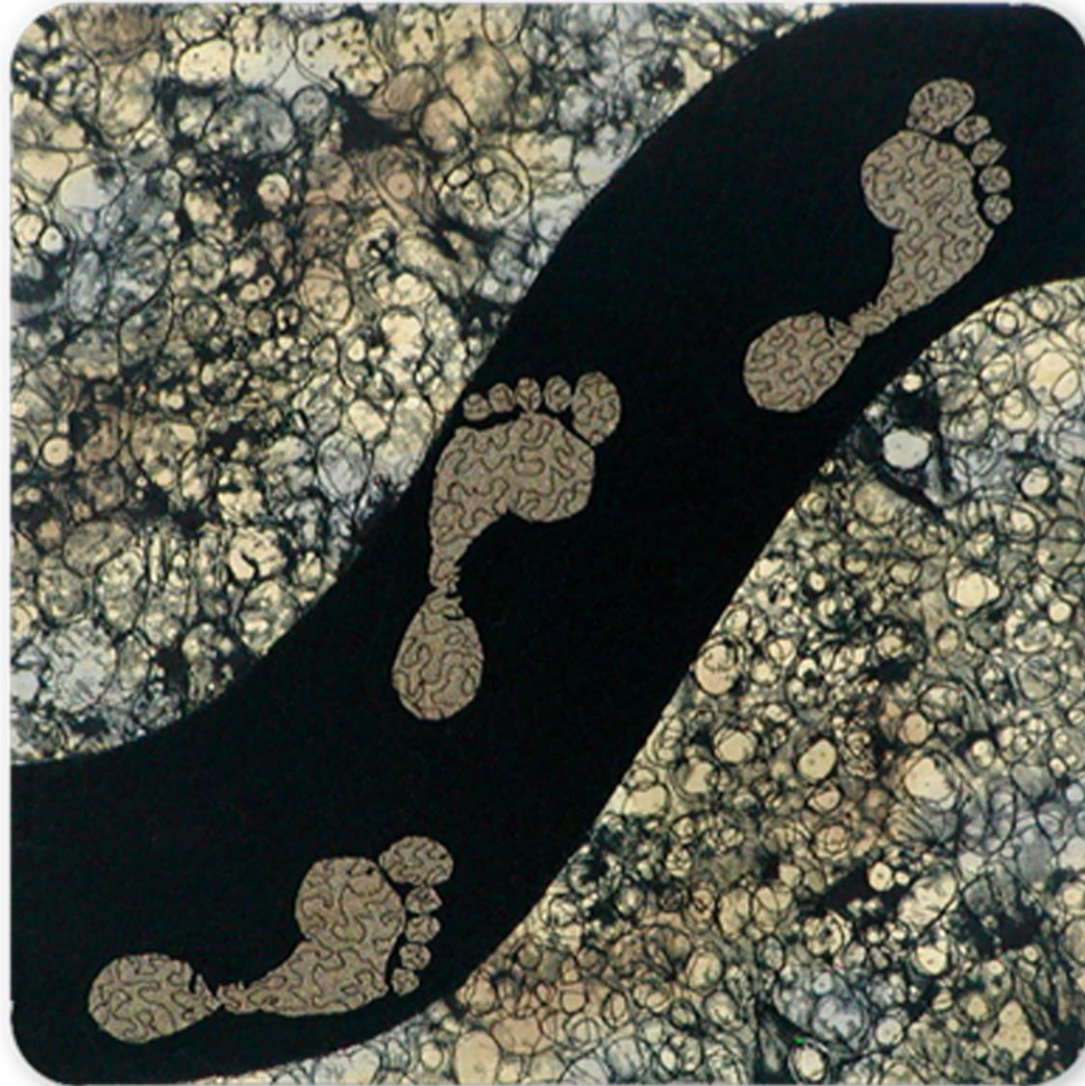
II — EXTRAVAGANCE:
An Unidentified Woman Anoints Jesus



III — LEADERSHIP
Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet



IV — OFFERING:
Jesus Extends the Gift of Himself



V — WILL POWER:
Jesus Prays in the Garden



VI — BETRAYAL:
A Friend Turns Against Jesus



VII — ABDICATION:
Pilate Abdicates Responsibility for Jesus' Fate



VIII — DENIAL:
Peter Denies Knowing Jesus



IX — HUMILIATION:
The Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus' Garments



X — WELFARE:
Simon Is Forced To Assist Jesus



XI — ENCOUNTER:
Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



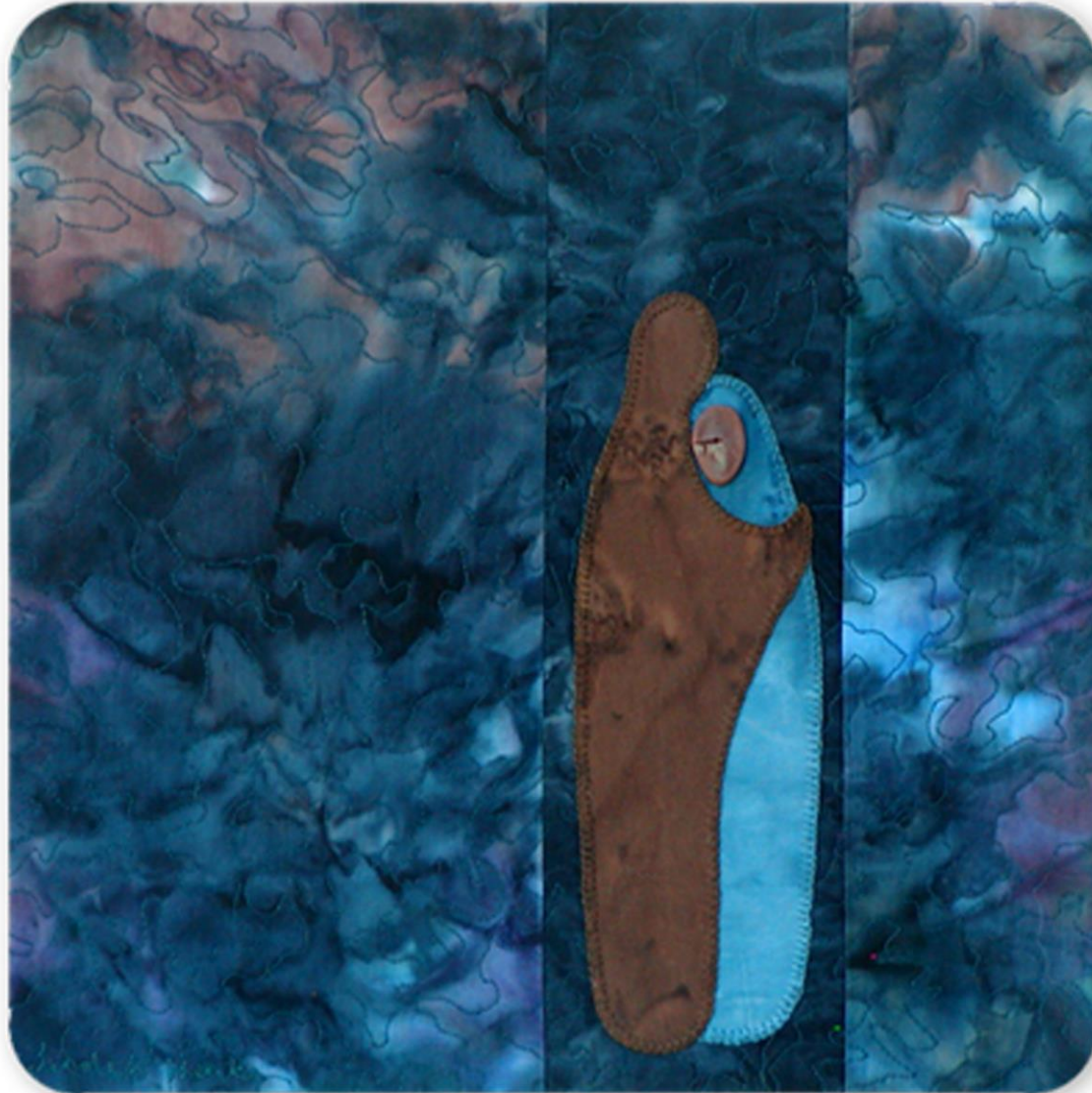
XII — CRUCIFIXION:
Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross



XIII — PROXIMITY:
Jesus Hangs on the Cross Between Two Thieves



XIV — VIGIL:
Jesus Is Supported by the Faithful Women



XV — FAMILY:
Jesus Entrusts His Mother and His Friend to Each Other



XVI — DEAD END:
Jesus Succumbs to Death



XVII — 'DEM BONES:
Jesus' Body Is Buried in the Tomb



XVIII — WOMEN'S WORK:
The Women Return to Anoint Jesus' Body



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