



ADVENT

Art by Sandra Bowden



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GALLERY • ADVENT 2018

Advent is a season of preparation and waiting that equips us for the entire church year - we prepare and wait to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas as a way to better prepare and wait throughout the church year (and our lives) for Christ's second coming.

Our Advent gallery show, featuring work by our friend, Sandra Bowden, helps us to more clearly see what it means to wait, prepare, and long for Christ's coming with hopeful anticipation. The show, combining works from two of her shows, *Word as Image* and *Cradle to Cross*, features Sandra's beautiful use of imagery, colors, materials, textures, and Hebrew scripture as a way to imagine God's Word as not only being the foundational origin and ultimate end of all creation but also the Word that became flesh at Christ's incarnation, dwelt among us in perfect obedience, was crucified for us, resurrected, and that will ultimately return in a "cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21) when all is finally made new and right.

Sandra's show will then evolve as we add vibrant, gold-leaf pieces over the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, helping us to both celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world and reflect on His earthly mission and ministry.

May this show help us wait well. May it also resonate deeply with our worship, help us more fully comprehend God's great love for us through Christ's incarnation, and bless our community life over the coming months as we wait, love, and serve, with hope, together.

David Lutes

Director of Music + Arts Ministry and Gallery Director

In the Beginning

The first chapter of Genesis, written in a Dead Sea scroll script, becomes both the text and image of this collagraph. Two Hebrew words from the first verse of Genesis, God created, rise from the center of the first line of text to form a celestial body.



Collagraph

1978

21 x 8 in.

\$300/\$425 framed

And In Earth

Seen as a sphere from beyond our place of vision, the earth is viewed as layer upon layer that reveal secrets from the past. The Hebrew text from the 113th Psalm which reads:

The Lord is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God?
The One who sits enthroned on high,
who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?



Collagraph

1982

20 x 20 in.

\$300/\$400 framed

Annunciation after Fra Angelico (1387 - 1455)

Opposite each bed in the cells of the Cloister of San Marco in Florence, Fra Angelico painted a fresco with a scene from the life of Christ that was to be a focus for each monk's contemplation. This tender portrayal of the annunciation is one of Fra Angelico's most loved works.



Mixed media drawing with 22-carat gold leaf

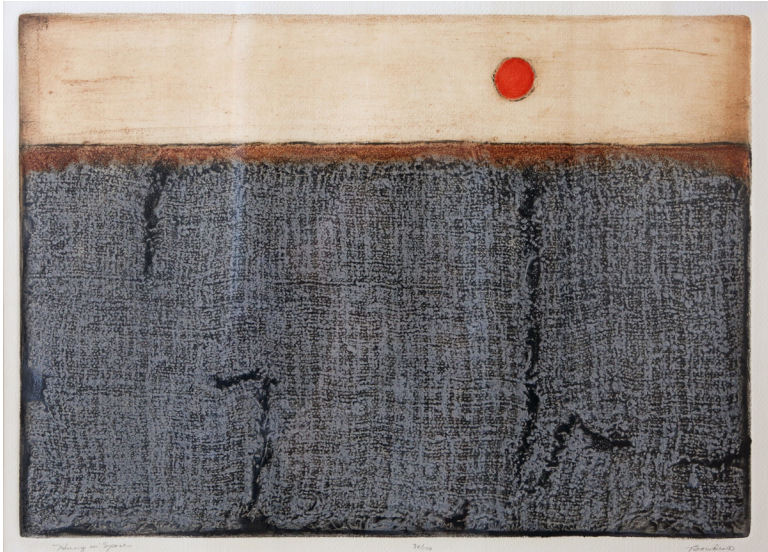
1997

21 x 16 in.

\$400/\$525 framed

Hung In Space

Masses of matter are suspended in space
Hurled forth by the creator's force
To birth to planets, stars and heavenly bodies.



A collagraph is an intaglio printing process, which uses a built-up collaged plate made from a great variety of materials (strips of fabric, thread, aluminum foils, plants, marble dust, acrylic modeling paste) that are glued onto the surface of masonite or cardboard. The surface is then painted or inked and run through an etching press at several thousand pounds of pressure, thereby transferring the paint and the texture to the surface of the paper. The process is completely repeated to create another print in the edition.

Collagraph

1981

14 x 20 in.

Price by request

Was the Word

Pages from a Greek New Testament are visible beneath the many layers of Japanese rice papers. The final gold leafed Hebrew text gives interest and contrast to the other text elements as it creates the central cross form. Handwritten portions from the first chapter of the Gospel of Saint John are inscribed to the surface of the collage.



Collage mixed-media

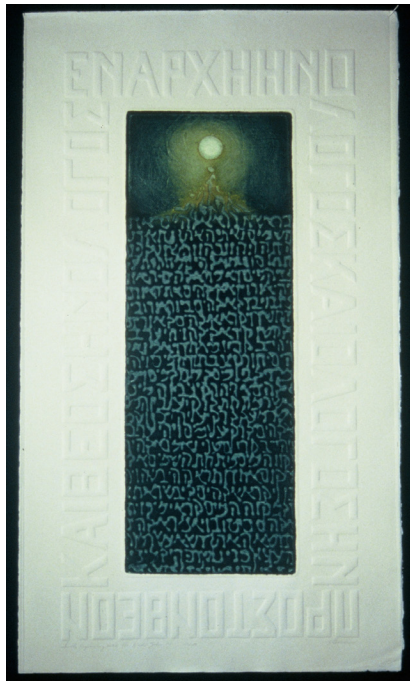
2009

18 x 14 in.

\$600/\$725 framed

In the Beginning Was the Word

A Hebrew commentary traditionally has the main text written in the center of the page, surrounded by other scripture that sheds light on the passage and commentaries by other great thinkers. This Jewish concept perceives the various writers in conversation with each other. This piece portrays an exchange between the Old and New Testaments, where John uses the opening text of Moses to begin his Prologue. The Hebrew text, “In the beginning God created,” starts the first chapter of Genesis and is included in the central panel of this print.



A Greek embossing surrounds the Hebrew passage with “In the beginning was the Word...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” (John 1:1 & 14) creating a kind of conversation between John and Moses.

Collagraph

1982

30 x 18 in.

\$400/\$525 framed

Formed

A celestial body is formed and cast into the vastness of space.



Collograph

1980

9 x 4 in.

Price by request

From Mt. Sinai

A page the Hebrew Bible is layered beneath the Hebrew gilded text which has been collaged to a handmade paper embedded with bits of 19th Century Bible commentaries.



Collage mixed-media

1995

11 x 8.5 in.

Price by request

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

The interior collagraph combines two plates, a landscape and a Hebrew text from Psalm 121 which also suggests water. It is surrounded with the same passage embossed in a block style.



Collagraph and embossing

1983

18 x 18 in.

\$400/\$525 framed

Law and Gospel

The rich surface is a Hebrew text from the Ten Commandments, created by layering gold leafing on the collagraph print, then adding colored iridescent craypas repeatedly to the raised areas.

The Word of God consists of both Law—which reveals our mortal failures—and Gospel, which proclaims the forgiveness of sin through the unfathomable grace of God. Christians believe God assumed human flesh in Jesus Christ, who died as a sacrifice and the atonement for the sins of the world. The broken tablets of the broken Law give way to the Cross.



With one additional horizontal cut, the tablets of the Law become four quadrants, suggesting a cross. Jesus said he came to fulfill the Law. When we have finished an item on our list of items to be done, we put a line through it, marking it done. This is what I was thinking as I took the Law, marked it done, with a horizontal line, only to see a cross appear.

Collagraph mixed media

1994

Two 18 x 14 in. panels

\$700/\$850 framed

Burst Into Song, O Mountains

Fabrics are glued to a Masonite plate, then painted and transferred to a dampened paper. This is the collagraph process. The textured portion of the print includes a text from Isaiah reading, "Burst into song, O mountains."



Collagraph

1986

20 x 20 in.

\$300/\$425 framed

The Ten Commandments

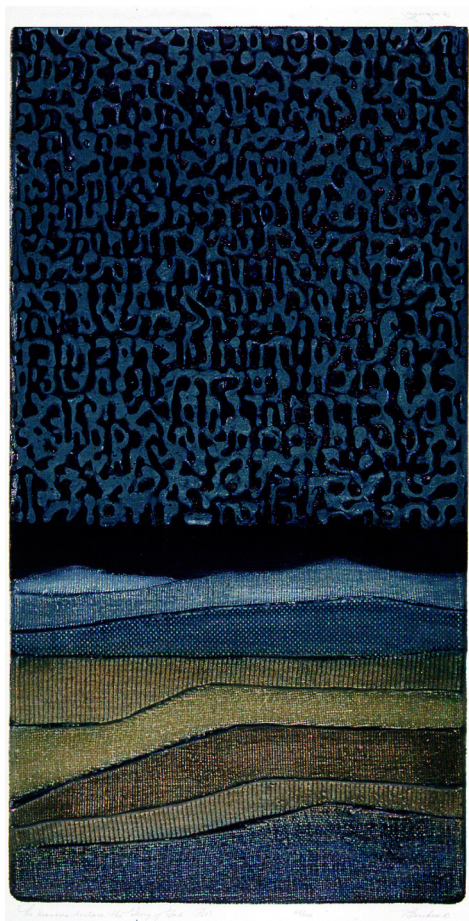
The Ten Commandments radiate from the 10 gilded sheaves of paper floating above the surface of the black background. The entire Exodus text was created on a masonite plate, printed on an etching press in a brown color on a heavy paper, then gilded and surfaced with iridescent craypas to give a luminous quality to the image.



Collagraph mixed media
2003
30 X 22 in.
\$500/\$650 framed

Heavens Declare the Glory of God

The heavens communicate an inaudible speech, by their very presence offering a universal praise. The sky area in this collagraph includes all of Psalm 19 in Hebrew, its pattern suggesting movement in the heavens.



Collagraph

1981

23 x 12 in.

\$400/\$525 framed

Logos

A page from an old Greek Bible with the first chapter of the Book of John is layered into this collage, and a gilded Hebrew panel from the 1st chapter of the Book of Genesis is centered on the piece. This sets what a midrash would consider a conversation between John and Moses.



Collage mixed media

1995

6 x 8.5 in.

\$250/\$325 framed

Reading

A page from an old German Bible was layered beneath the muted tones of the Japanese rice paper. The gilded surface is from the Genesis story of creation.



Collage mixed-media

1995

6.5 x 7.5 in.

\$250/\$325 framed

Prayers of the People

For centuries the prayers of the people have been raised as they recite prayers together. The surface of this large artist's book is covered with gilded Hebrew text from the Book of Psalms.

A new wave of interest is spreading through the Church to find ancient ways to express our worship, and it is my hope that *Prayers of the People* offers a visual glimpse of the preciousness of the rich heritage found in the Hebrew Scriptures.



Mixed-media with gold leaf

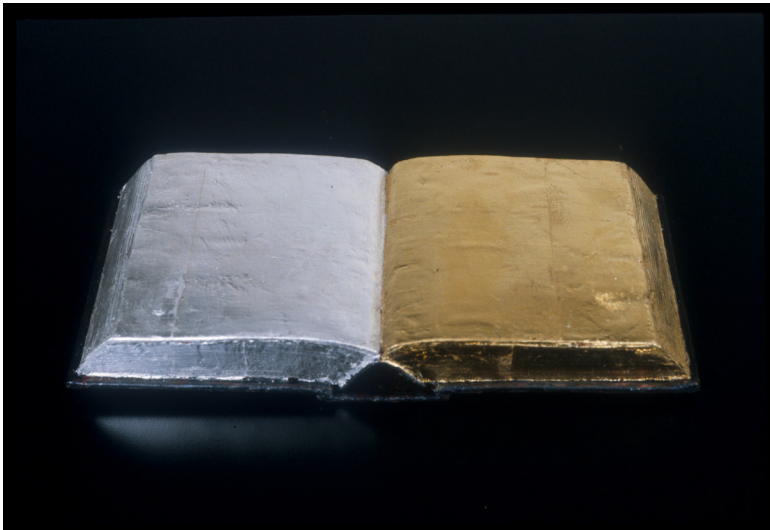
2009

14.25 x 24.25 x 1 in.

\$600

Neither Silver nor Gold

The Bible links silver and gold literally dozens of times, usually alluding to the futility of their value in relations to eternal values. This artist book was a thick small book, permanently fixed in an open position to create a kind of painted sculpture. An intense red underlayment of color was applied to the book, and then half was gilded with 24 carat gold leaf, with pure silver on the other portion.



Mixed media

2004

5.25 x 11.5 x 1.5 in.

\$400

Resurrection Book

A page from an old German Bible was layered beneath the muted tones of the Japanese rice paper. The gilded surface is from the Genesis story of creation.



Mixed media with gold leaf

2009

14.25 x 24.25 x 1 in.

\$600

Visual artist **Sandra Bowden** has been interpreting Scripture and her own spiritual walk through mixed media for more than forty years. She has been acclaimed as one of the most unique, impressive and inspiring Christian artists in America. Bowden's work has been featured in books, magazines and gallery shows across the United States, Canada, Italy and Jerusalem.

Her work fuses the vivid yet traditional imagery of the Old Testament – stone tablets and artifacts, Hebrew inscriptions, architectural depictions – with images of Christ's passion, important music scores, and God's natural creations. She has issued several series of artworks over the years: crucifixion scenes, artistic use of text and color, new interpretations of classic religious artwork, even altered books with applied textures and hues. God's grandeur and creativity shine through in each piece of her art.

"My Christian faith has been the driving force behind my art," Bowden says. "I look at the making of a piece of art as a kind of doxology, a prayer or conversation with God. I don't mean this in any mystical way, but my ideas come out of my theology and thoughts about God. I am somewhat of a theologian, but one who translates those interpretations into visual form."

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