

# PSALMS



*Reflecting as a community through the arts*



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GALLERY • SUMMER 2019





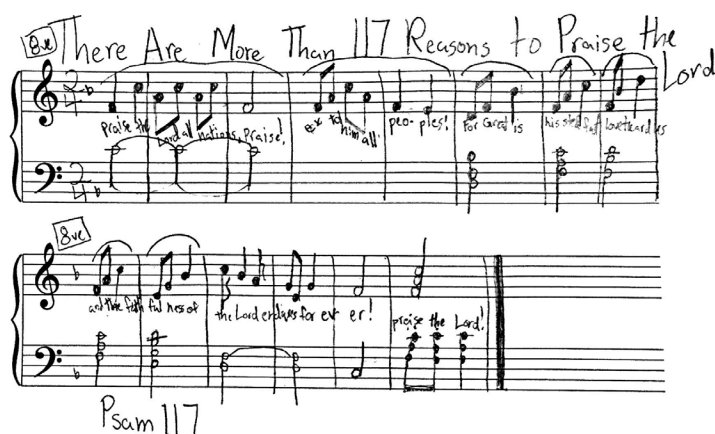
# PSALMS

For our second-annual, Summer Community Art Show, we've chosen the **Psalms**, God's songbook, as our jumping off point for artistic reflection on God's Word. Full of faithful worship through poetry, revealing truth about God through rich metaphor, appealing to the full range of human senses, experiences, and emotions, and all of it created through a community of God's people, the **Psalms** provide, as beautifully put by our friend David Taylor, "a vision of a community of artists, of all kinds... who over a long period of time make art for God's sake and for the sake of the world... They do so in poetically rich, aesthetically intensive, and contextually meaningful ways. They do so in ways that both comfort and disturb, in faithfulness to the Word of God."\*

My prayer is that this show, comprised of work made by our community of artists and reflecting on particular **Psalms**, will, itself, embody this very vision of worship-through-art that we see in the **Psalms**. May our artists' faithfulness, expression, creative reflection of God's Word, and offering of their work for Him and the world, lead all of us to know, love, and serve God and neighbor more deeply and fully, in Christ.

-David Lutes

Director of Music & Arts Ministry and Gallery Director



Ruth Ann Forrester

*There Are More Than 117 Reasons To Praise the Lord*

Pencil and ink on paper, 2019

8.5 x 11 in.

NFS

**Psalm 117**

# REFUGE

*A Reflection on the Psalms, adapted from the Lenten Concert premiere of "We Lift Our Eyes" (**Psalm 123**) on March 25, 2019.*

REFUGE, by Sara Teasdale

*From my spirit's gray defeat,  
From my pulse's flagging beat,  
From my hopes that turned to sand  
Sifting through my close-clenched hand,  
From my own fault's slavery,  
If I can sing, I still am free.*

*For with my singing I can make  
A refuge for my spirit's sake,  
A house of shining words, to be  
My fragile immortality.*

A refuge. I can't think of a better description of how a Christian relates to the Psalms, those ancient hymns and songs of the church. The Psalms are where we take shelter when our emotions are overwhelming us. They say for us what we sometimes cannot say for ourselves, helping us process agonizing or complex thoughts and feelings that come with every season of our lives; from crushing sorrow, to spiritual drought, to deep joy.

They offer needed encouragement (**Psalm 27**), hope in dry seasons (**Psalm 42 and 43**) and deep, steady comfort (**Psalm 23**). They call us to repent of sin (**Psalm 32 and 51**) and let us weep at our own worldly and bodily brokenness (**Psalm 88**). They rage at the darkness of the world (**Psalm 39 and 137**), and call us to seek shelter in the Lord from the coming storm (**Psalm 46**).

The Psalms help us cope.  
We sing them to our hearts.  
They are our house of shining words.  
Our Refuge, given to us by God himself.  
For he knows our deepest needs, even before we were born (**Psalm 139**).

## THE PSALMS HELP US ENDURE

**Psalm 123** is one of the Psalms of ascent, or pilgrimage. A journey song. In this text, a powerless or helpless person is waiting. They speak of waiting for God to use his power to have mercy upon them, to change their dire circumstances. They speak of how hard it is to wait. But they also speak of hope, the enduring, steely type described by the Apostle Paul in Romans, Chapter 5.

This psalm echoes what those of us who are Christians believe is the very truth of our lives: that God, through Christ, will have mercy upon us someday. All will be well. In the end, joy will break out like music. Loud music at that (**Psalm 150**).

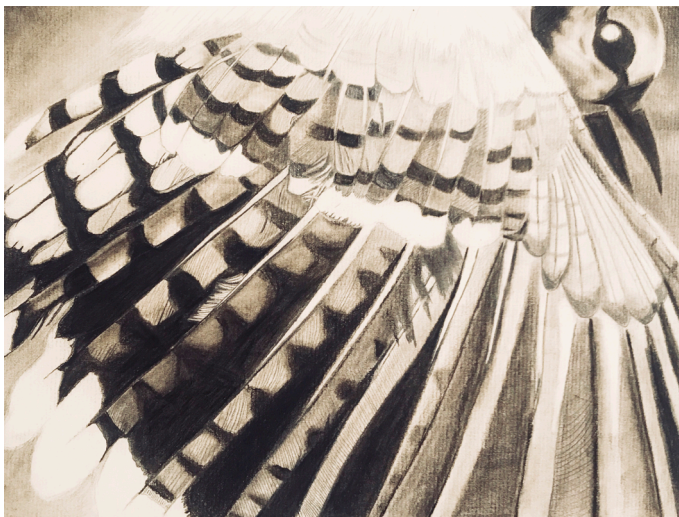
So the psalmist continues to wait. Not without pain - to suggest such a thing is to minimize the brutality of some of the hardest parts of life in a fallen world. A saccharine or pedantic answer to suffering only adds to suffering, and many grief stricken people can bear witness to that. God's word on waiting through our suffering is, predictably, far better than our human wisdom.

The balance is key, if we want to truly find comfort in these texts.

**Psalm 123** describes someone with a firm belief that, no matter what, the one who is mighty, the one who has ultimate power, will have mercy. It is finished. But it also affirms that, for now, it's okay to sorrow, to process through what makes waiting hard, to speak and grieve all the pain we feel. "How long, O Lord..."

We all feel helpless in the darkness of our waiting. But Christians can know, with that same certainty as the psalmist, that our mourning will turn to dancing (**Psalm 30**), that the mountains will sing and the rivers clap for joy (**Psalm 98**), and that the darkness of Good Friday - when Jesus himself cried out with anguished words of abandonment from Psalm 22 - will turn to the Joy of Easter Sunday, as the One who sowed in tears comes home, arms full of an abundant harvest, with shouts of joy (**Psalm 126**).

- Jamie Taylor



Abby Snelling  
*Find Refuge*  
 Charcoal and graphite on paper, 2019  
 7.5 x 10.5 in.  
 \$50  
**Psalm 91:4**



Mónica Tornoé  
*The Guardian*  
 Acrylic on wood, 2019  
 28 x 23 in.  
 \$500  
**Psalm 91:1-2**



Luis Guerra  
*Gracia I*  
 Watercolor on paper, 2015  
 11 x 8.5 in.  
 \$480



Laura Forrester  
*Prayer Beads*  
 Metal, wood, fishing line jewelry, 2019  
 11 x 2 in.  
 NFS

# A PSALM TO THE EARTH TO SING

Rise up to sing to God, O' earth,  
Lift up your beauty and your worth,  
Stand and praise the Lord.  
Bring all your gifts forward.

Shine on you glowing sun,  
Illuminate the Holy One.  
Send forth your blazing light  
Dispel all gloom - destroy fright.

Come on you Rivers! Come and Flow!  
Refresh this world so it can grow.  
With your living bubbling spring  
Quench us with the Word you sing.

Laugh along all you streams!  
Tells us God fulfills our dreams.  
Blow light and steady, every breeze,  
Whisper God upon the seas.

O' ancient rocks – be strong!  
Tell us how God does not go wrong.  
Wave on you branches - Yes! bow down!  
Our only eternal King is aroun'.

Glide on each and every bird.  
Float on the breath of the veritable Word.  
Gallop hard all you horses,  
Ride for the One who our source is.

Tiny mice – go and scatter!  
With God's peace go pitter-patter.  
Shout out eagles as you fall.  
Scream that God is over all.

You elephants – Trumpet loud!  
Our longed-for God is never bowed.  
Come now badgers and you bears,  
Rest with peace in a God who cares.

Be a canvas, O' great sky.  
Let the Artist paint on high!  
Sleep you sloths and show us how,  
God delights to simply dwell.

Play along all you opossums,  
Show how death can make us blossom.  
Go on dead ones – keep on resting,  
See whom the Risen is divesting.

Come now People of the King!  
Gather up all there is to bring!  
Join His earth in Jubilee!  
Celebrate and shout with glee!

Christ has come and is advancing.  
Death is dead and sin not lasting.  
Rejoice in Him! Rejoice Again!  
For everything will say amen.

The world is held in His embrace.  
He comes again to shouts of praise.  
So form up atoms of the earth!  
Praise the King of royal worth.

Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Sing His name.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Sing His fame.

- Josh Keller



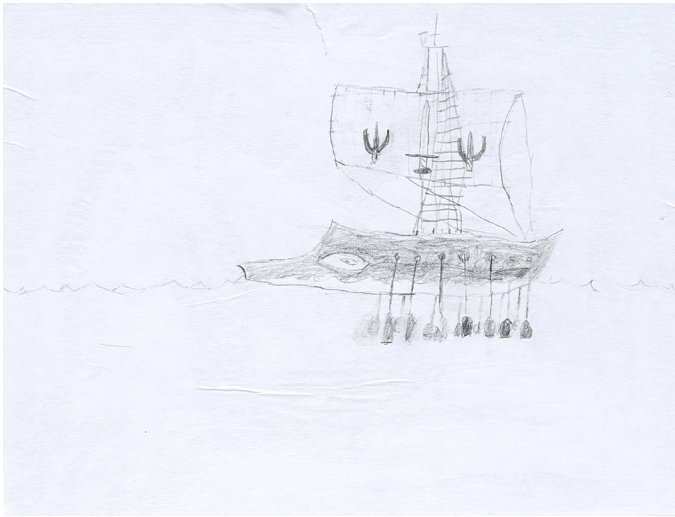


Melissa Bernard  
*The Rock*  
 Collage, 2019  
 24 x 15 in.  
 NFS  
**Psalm 61**



Marlon Wood  
*Starshield*  
 Acrylic on wood, 2019  
 30 x 24 in.  
 \$200  
**Psalm 28:7**





Gus Forrester  
*Lord of the Sea*  
 Pencil on paper, 2019  
 9 x 12 in.  
 NFS



Beck Forrester  
*Quiver*  
 Leather, turkey feathers, 2018  
 21 x 5 x 4 in.  
 NFS  
**Psalm 18:14**



Delia Hunt  
*The Sovereignty of God*  
Oil on cork, 2019  
20 x 30 in.  
\$200  
**Psalm 93:3-4**

# DARKNESS AND LIGHT

- *Proverbs 5, 7 and Psalm 51*

Warning!

"But in the end she is bitter as wormwood"

Oh Lord, the warning was before me. Your wise counsel was at my fingertips.

It was at my disposal. I confess that it was foolishly ignored.

DARKNESS

"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me."

Oh Lord, my shameful depravity is on full display to you and your children.

LIGHT

"With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him."

Oh Lord, Foolish! I was such a fool ensnared by my own sin and the lies whispered by the enemy.

DARKNESS

"Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me."

Oh Lord, my sins deserve judgement. They reach to the depths of Sheol.

Christ, may you be what shines in the dark.

LIGHT

"All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter."

Oh Lord, the depths of hell, the depths of hell is where my sin led me.

DARKNESS

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Oh Lord, cleanse me of my iniquities and my shame. Christ, may your blood atone.

LIGHT

"Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death."

Oh Lord, death, my death is what I wanted to get out of the bondage of my sin.

DARKNESS

"Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you."

Oh Lord, may those that are in bondage see that you have rescued this fool.

LIGHT

- Coleman Thrash



Presley Wood  
*Wolf Howling*  
 Acrylic on canvas, 2019  
 36 x 12 in.  
 \$200  
**Psalm 59:15**



Mark Ziehr  
 139  
 Acrylic on wood, 2019  
 48 x 40 in.  
 \$900  
**Psalm 139:13**



Erin Keller  
*Wandering Lust*  
 Acrylic on canvas, 2019  
 24 x 24 in.  
 \$500



Winnie Forrester  
*The Sea*  
 Watercolor on paper, 2019  
 12 x 16 in.  
 \$15  
**Psalms 98:7, 148:7**

## COSMIC KNITTING

*Knit – to unite or cause to unite, as in “disparate regions  
had begun to knit together under the king.”*

In the formless and the void, he sits;  
the gentle click-click of needle tips the only sound,  
echoing in the silence.

The fabric billows out behind him, filling the empty space,  
with blues, greens, here and there a pop of pink or red,  
rich browns and oranges.

And then, he pauses – a smile flits across his face  
as he quickens the pace in eager anticipation;  
he knits swiftly and gently.

Finally, he holds up the finished product  
in front of him in the new light of day,  
And His grin breaks into a full-blown smile.

“Like looking in a mirror,” he says,  
before he exhales, breathing life  
into every last stitch.

-Mary Freiburger





Matt Osborne  
*Ring Road (Iceland)*  
 Photograph, 2016  
 20 x 24 in.  
 \$200  
**Psalm 121**



Jenny Noel  
*The Grand Canyon, God's Cathedral*  
 Oil on canvas, 2019  
 16 x 20 in.  
 \$500  
**Psalm 66:1-3a**



Nancy Donaldson  
*Unrealized Hope*  
 Oil on linen, 2015  
 10 x 8 in.  
 NFS



Sonya Menges  
*Intervention II*  
 Oil, latex, aluminum on panel, 2012  
 13 x 11 in.  
 NFS  
**Psalm 104**





Asher Wood  
*Eddyline*  
Encaustic on panel, 2019  
36 x 14 in.  
\$600  
**Psalm 74:13**

FOR ARTIST STATEMENTS AND BIOS: see gallery  
copy, visit [allsaintsaustin.org/aboutPSALMS](http://allsaintsaustin.org/aboutPSALMS), or  
activate QR link with your phone camera.



CURATOR: Missy Wood, [woodsquaredart.com](http://woodsquaredart.com)

---

SELECT ARTIST LINKS:

Melissa Bernard:	<a href="#">Instagram @melmckb</a>
Luis Guerra:	<a href="#">Facebook: Luis Guerra</a> <a href="http://GaleriaGuerra.com">GaleriaGuerra.com</a>
Erin Keller:	<a href="#">Instagram #emkellerart</a>
Sonya Menges:	<a href="#">Instagram @sonyabergmenges</a> <a href="http://sonyamenges.com">sonyamenges.com</a>
Matt Osborne:	<a href="#">Instagram @ozphotographs</a> <a href="http://matthewosbornephoto.com">matthewosbornephoto.com</a> <a href="http://artfromthehills.com/Matt-Osborne">artfromthehills.com/Matt-Osborne</a>
Mónica Tornoé:	<a href="http://monicatornoe.com">monicatornoe.com</a>
Asher Wood:	<a href="#">Instagram @woodsquaredart</a> <a href="http://woodsquaredart.com">woodsquaredart.com</a>
Mark Ziehr:	<a href="http://zarthaus.com">zarthaus.com</a>

---

FOR PURCHASE INQUIRIES: [smenges@allsaintsaustin.org](mailto:smenges@allsaintsaustin.org)

---

\*read the full article by David Taylor at [fullerstudio.fuller.edu/psalms-a-biblical-model-of-art](http://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/psalms-a-biblical-model-of-art)

---



ALL SAINTS

PRESBYTERIAN

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

David Lutes, Director - [dlutes@allsaintsaustin.org](mailto:dlutes@allsaintsaustin.org)

Sonya Menges, Administrator - [smenges@allsaintsaustin.org](mailto:smenges@allsaintsaustin.org)