

LENT@
ECVA

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Readings throughout “Lent With ECVA” are from Streams of Mercy: a meditative commentary on the Bible by Ann Kristin Haldors Fontaine (used with the very kind permission of the author).

This Lenten space for art and meditation is a result of a suggestion made by Moses Hoskins when he was curating ECVA’s “Full Of Grace” exhibition. It is anchored by the current ECVA exhibition, Recognition & Return. Additional images have been contributed, to round out the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

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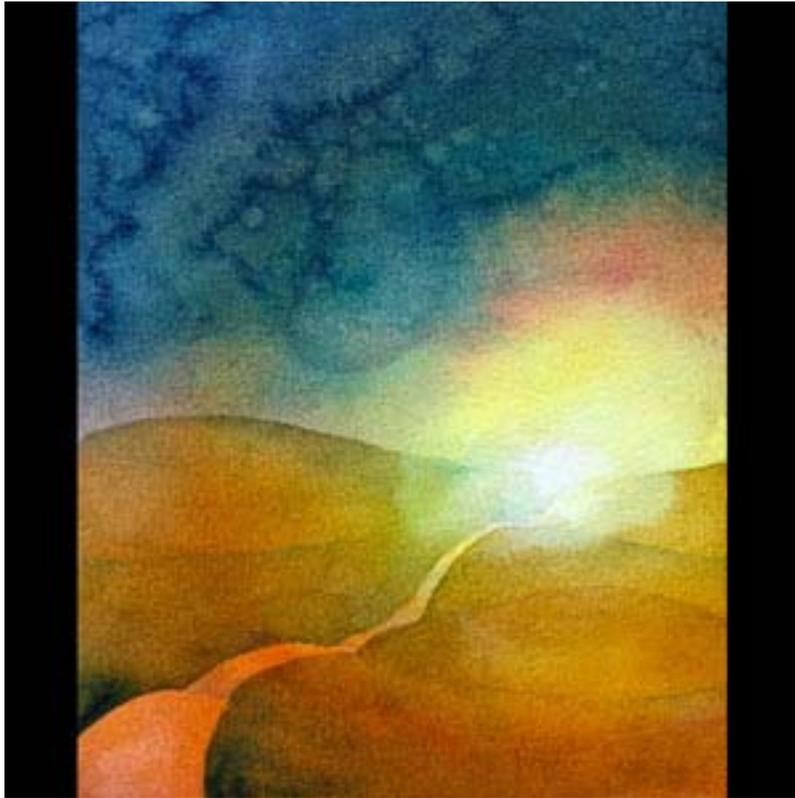
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Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010



Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!
The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,
and turns deep darkness into the morning,
and darkens the day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea,
and pours them out on the surface of the earth,
the LORD is his name,
who makes destruction flash out against the strong,
so that destruction comes upon the fortress.
They hate the one who reproveth in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. (Amos 5:7-10)

**Tsunamis of grace
Batter against
barricaded hearts,
while pollution
clouds our vision.**

Seen above: "Return" by [Kathrin Burleson](#)

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Thursday, February 18, 2010



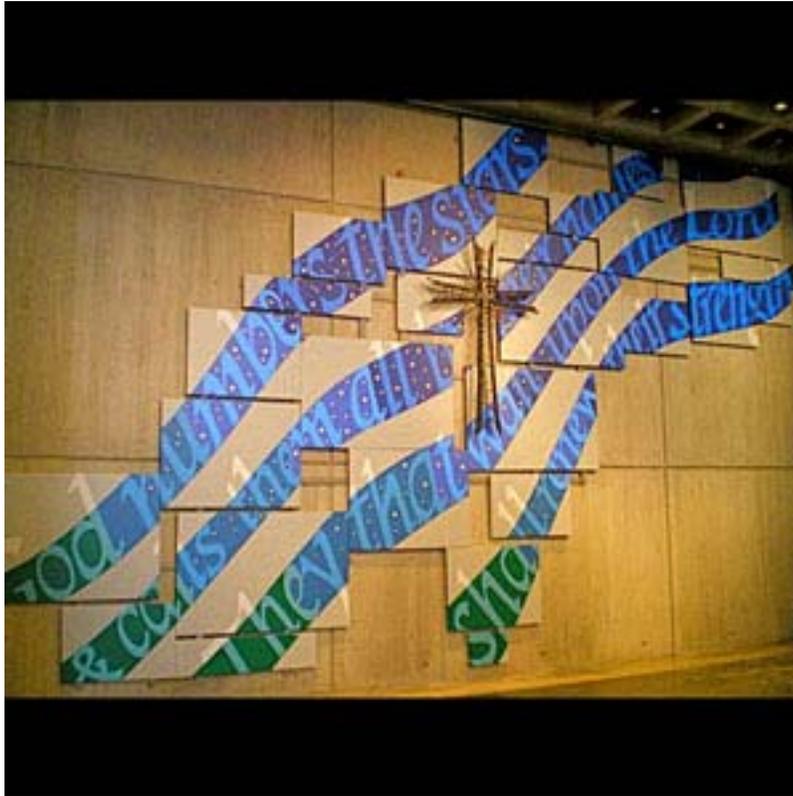
Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. (Psalm 37:7-9)

[Barbed wire of rage](#)
[Fences out love.](#)

Seen above: “The Gift of New Life in Christ” by [Gary Gorby](#)

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Friday, February 19, 2010



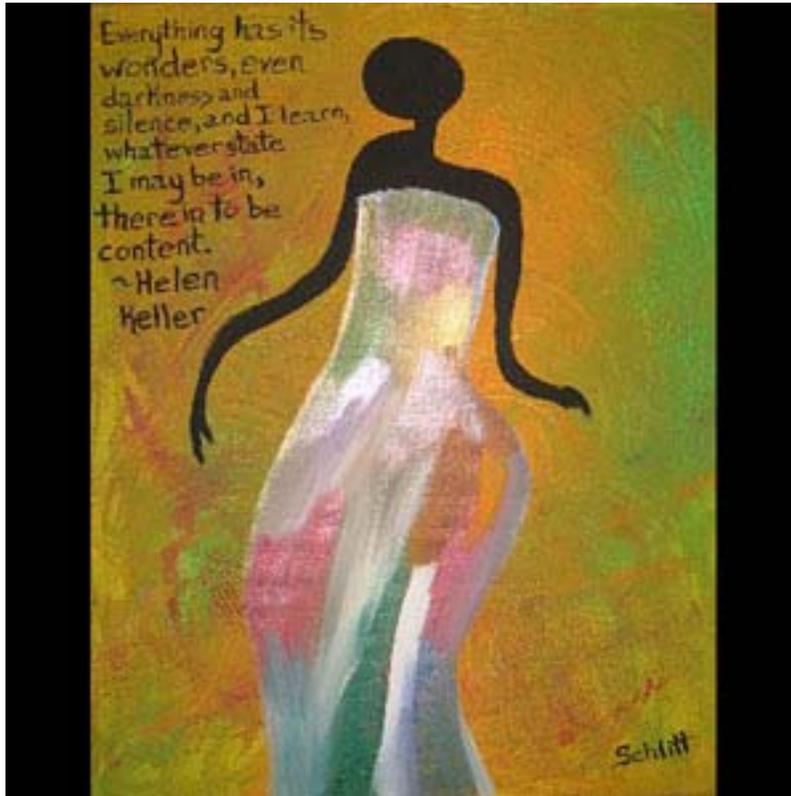
Finally, beloved,* whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about* these things. (Philippians 4:8)

+
++
+++
honor
purity
pleasure
commendable
praiseworthy---
Incense of blessing
Rises to fill the earth.

Seen above: “God Numbers the Stars” by [Judith McManis](#)

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Saturday, February 20, 2010



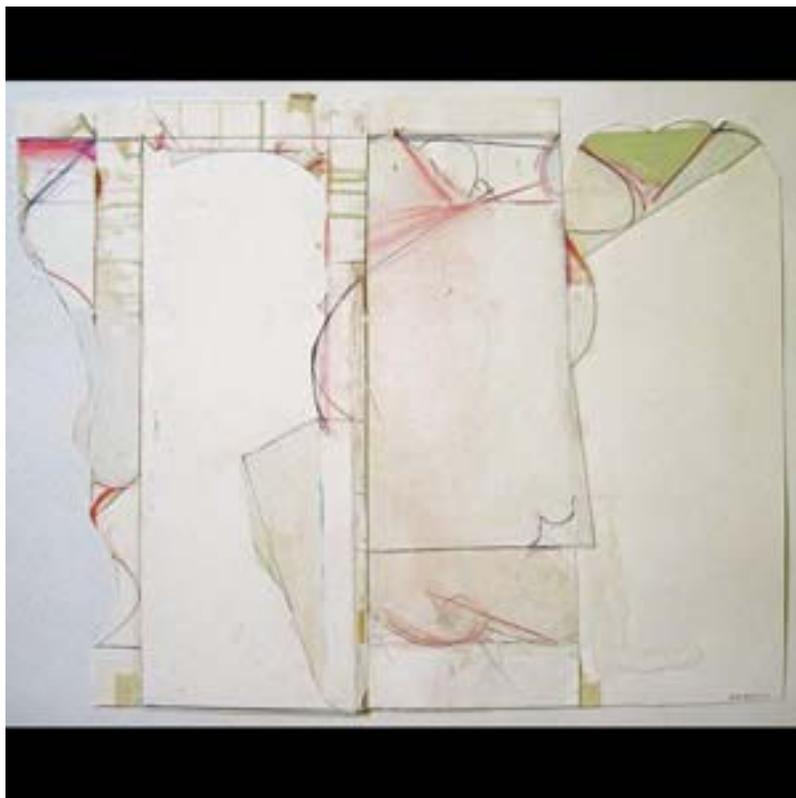
Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:11-13)

Plenty or want
Much or little
Contentment cannot be bought.

Seen above: "During winter times of the soul, it is hard to believe it, but God is there too" by RaRa Schlitt

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Sunday, February 21, 2010



I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. (John 12:47)

The Lifeguard
Swims with strong strokes
To the drowning,
With no thought
Of how they got into the deep water.

Seen above: "Untitled" by [Moses Hoskins](#)

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Monday, February 22, 2010



And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. (Mark1:11-13)

[The Beloved joins
the exile
from the Garden.](#)

Seen above: “Remove the Sandals from Your Feet, for the Place on which You are Standing is Holy Ground” by [Veryl Lynn Cox](#)

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Tuesday, February 23, 2010



Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." (Genesis 37:19b-20)

**Pits await
Those who speak the dream
And yet the dream will not be silenced.**

Seen above: "Triune Pear" by Nancy Stoller

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Wednesday, February 24, 2010



In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35)

What is it about deserted places
That calls us to prayer?
Stripped
Alone
In the dark
The heart beats
the rhythm of my song.

Seen above: "Still, I Rise" by [Kathy Bozzuti-Jones](#)

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Thursday, February 25, 2010



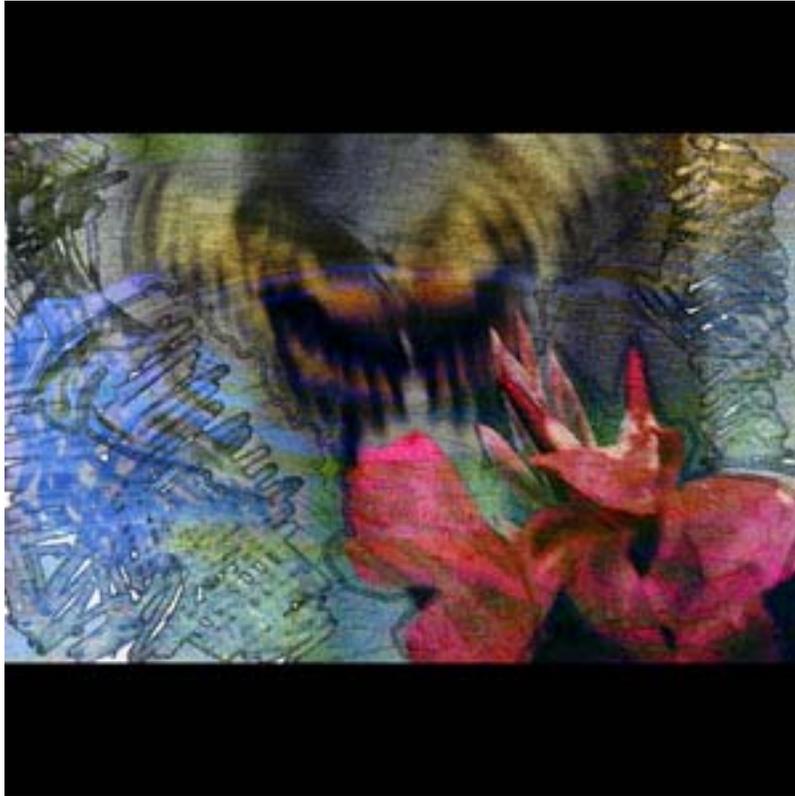
Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. (Mark 2:3)

Four strong friends
To carry me
When I cannot rise.

Seen above: "New Year's Light" by [Scott Fisher](#)

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Friday, February 26, 2010



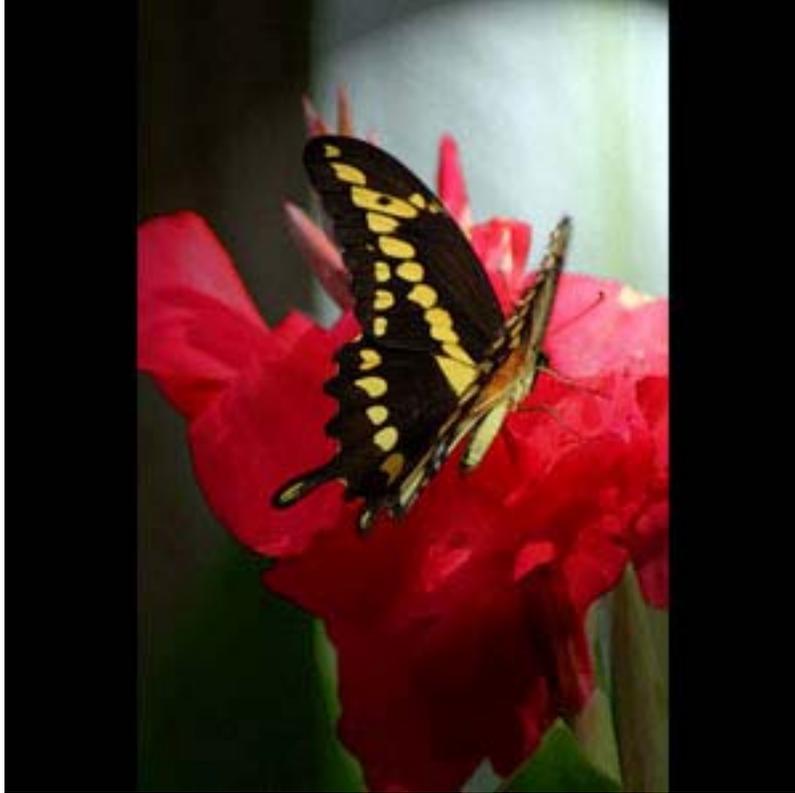
“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.” (Mark 2:21-22)

Moments come
when old and new
cannot meet.

Seen above: “Universal Dance” by [Barbara Desrosiers](#)

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Saturday, February 27, 2010



Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand will lead me,
and your right hand will hold me fast. (Psalm 139:6-9)

child lost in chaos
reaches out in terror
to find safety in her mother's hand

Seen above: "Veined Glory" by [Barbara Desrosiers](#)

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Sunday, February 28, 2010



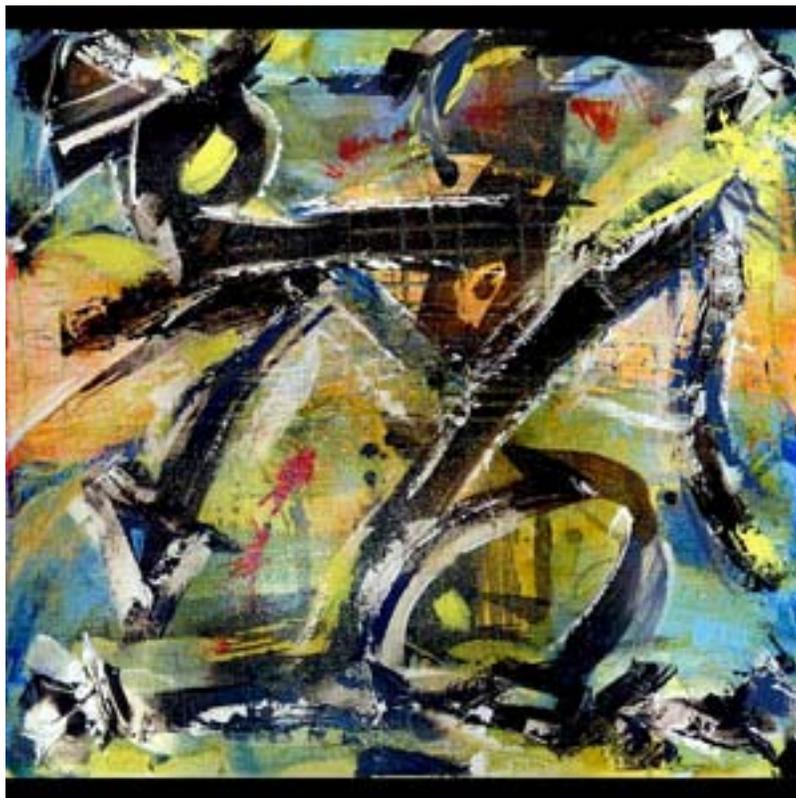
And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” Removing his signet ring from his hand, Pharaoh put it on Joseph’s hand; he arrayed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command; and they cried out in front of him, “Bow the knee!” (Genesis 41:41-43a)

Revolutions of life
Turn the one on his knees
to the one to whom all bow
Strange turnings
from day to day
Will we remember those days of aching knees?

Seen above: “And God was not in the whirlwind” by [Connie Backus-Yoder](#)

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Monday, March 1, 2010



Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, "You are the Son of God!" (Mark 3:11)

**Fragmentation
recognizes wholeness.
Disintegration
cries out to
the weaver of souls.**

Seen above: "Dancing Through Shadows" by C. Robin Janning

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Tuesday, March 2, 2010



Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (Mark 3:1-5)

Anger and grief
fuel the fire
of restoration.

Seen above: "Bridging the Torn Places" by [Barbara Mitchell](#)

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Wednesday, March 3, 2010



“Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path... Other seed fell on rocky ground... Other seed fell among thorns... Other seed fell into good soil...” (Mark 4:3-4a, 5, 7, 8)

Can seeds grow legs
and scramble to a better place?

Seen above: “Liberty” by [Diane Walker](#)

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Thursday, March 4, 2010



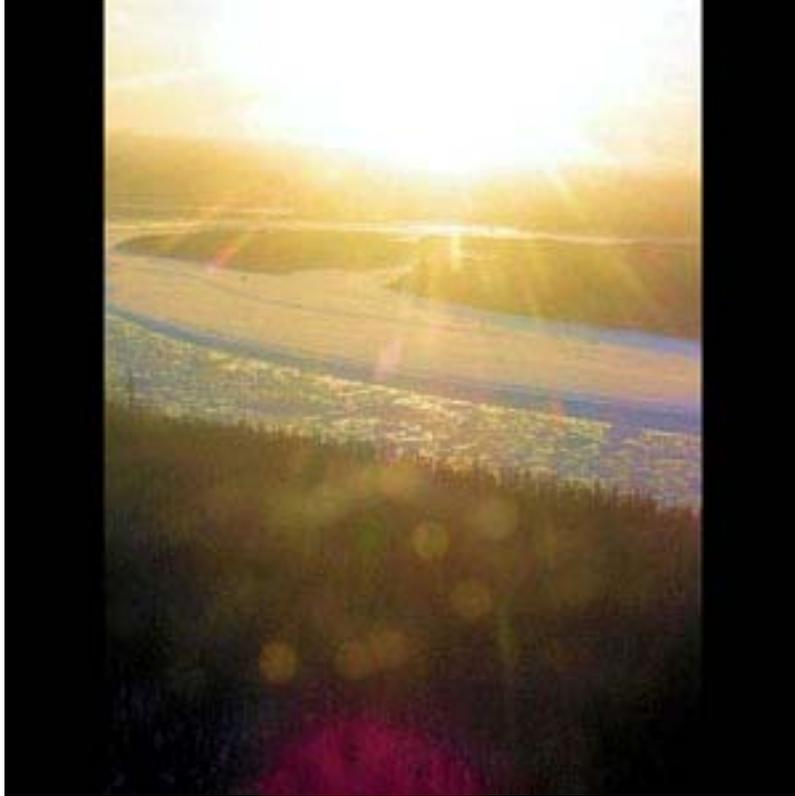
“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:12,19)

The law says yes
but justice says no.
Rules do not rule
in the temple of the spirit.

Seen above: Nuestra Señora de Tejas (Our Lady of Texas)
by James A. Mangum

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Friday, March 5, 2010



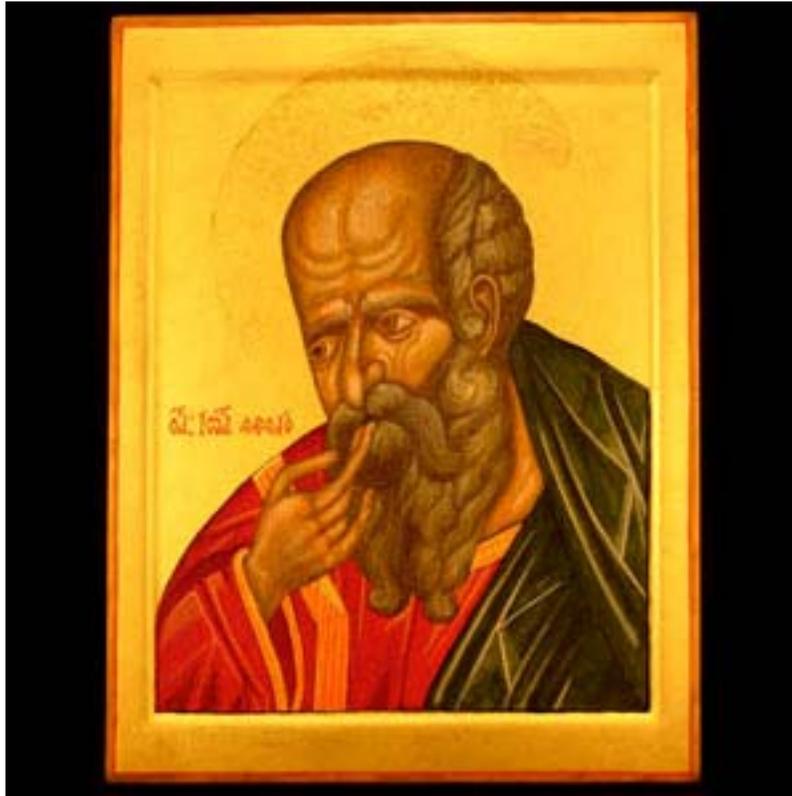
A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 5:145)

Eye of the hurricane
Spreads peace and calm
into the storms of my life.

Seen above: “Main Channel, Yukon River” by [Scott Fisher](#)

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Saturday, March 6, 2010



They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. (Mark 5:15)

We fear the one
who comes back
from the edges of the bold.
We cannot bear the knowing.

Seen above: Icon “St. John in Contemplation” by [Zachary Roesemann](#)

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Sunday, March 7, 2010



[Joseph] commanded the steward of his house, “Fill the men’s sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man’s money in the top of his sack. Put my cup, the silver cup, in the top of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain.” (Genesis 44:1-2)

**The victim becomes the perpetrator
in the game of retribution.
How long will Joseph live
from the pit?
How long will he be enslaved
to his anger?**

Seen above: “The Journey Within” by Robert Epley

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Monday, March 8, 2010



And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. (Mark 5:24—25, 27)

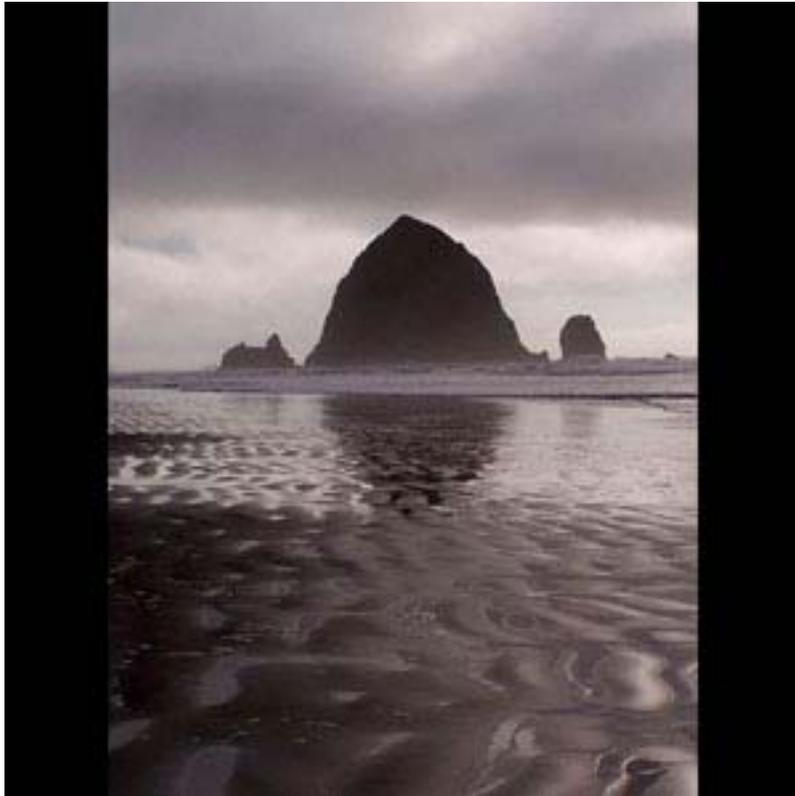
Isolated and alone
Woman of blood
pours herself towards
the fabric of life.

Dewdrop of hope
slips down the thread
to the woman
with outstretched hands.

Seen above: “Post Christmas Letdown” by Jim Wroten

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Tuesday, March 9, 2010



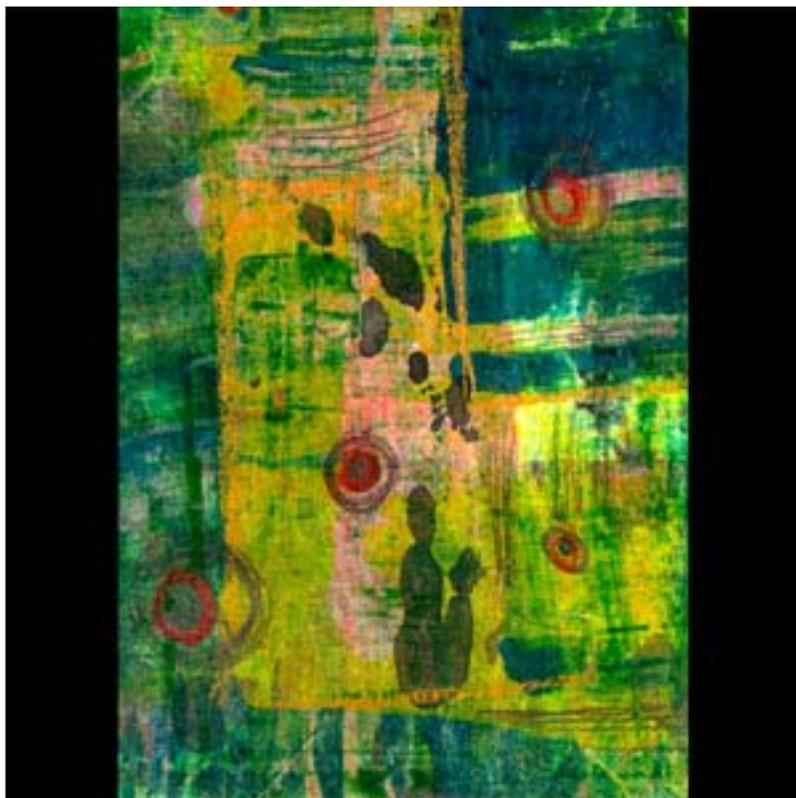
They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. (Mark 6:2b-3)

Though you have wisdom
and can heal us
We have to see
your Ph.D.

Seen above: “Ancient of Days” by [Loretta Matson](#)

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Wednesday, March 10, 2010



Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. (1 Corinthians 8:1b)

Filling the fragile
skin of the ballon
with great breaths of knowledge
Blowing and blowing
It POPS!!!
Bits of what might have been
rain down on the party.

Seen above: "As We Forgive Those" by [C. Robin Janning](#)

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Thursday, March 11, 2010



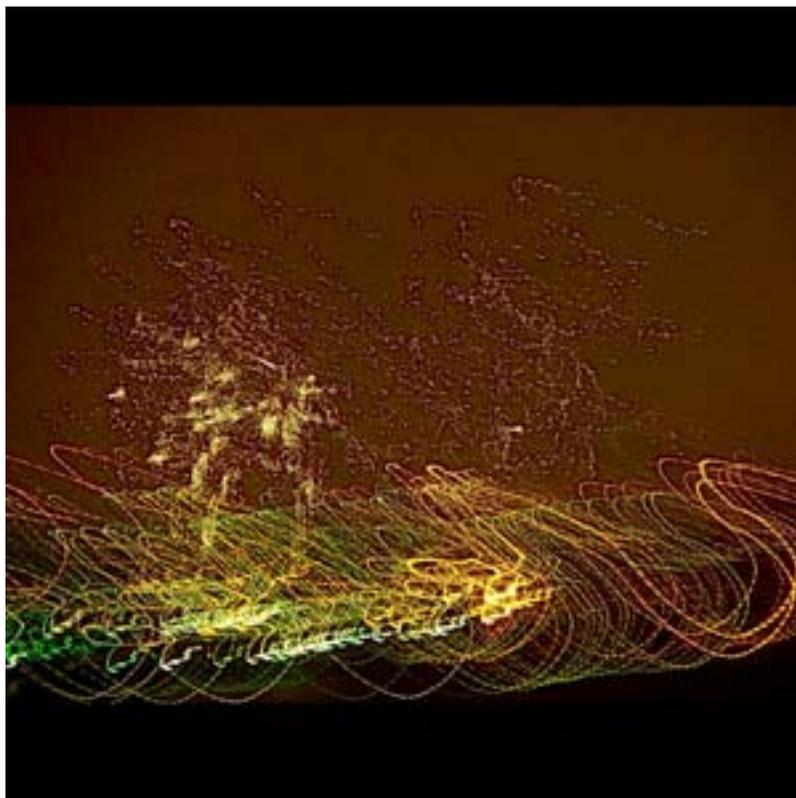
The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. (Mark 6:30-46)

The invitation
goes out
to all
the frantic lives
"Come away
and rest."

Seen above: "The Dove of the Holy Spirit" by [Mary Jane Oliver](#)

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Friday, March 12, 2010



Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)

In this race
all receive
the prize
before they even begin.

Seen above: "Spirit Song" by [Kathy Bozzuti-Jones](#)

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Saturday, March 13, 2010



Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to dust, and say,
“Go back, O child of earth.”
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
and like a watch in the night. (Psalm 90:1-4)

The years which seemed so long
in their days
have passed into time
speeding away.
Fragments of memories
float up like pieces
of old ships
broken on the rocks of life.
Still they carry their golden cargo.

Seen above: “Baptized into New Life” by [Sheila M. Conner](#)

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