



Lisle

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2024
11 AM WORSHIP

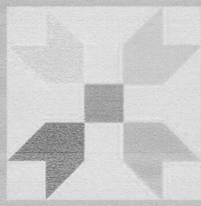


1111 Harvard Avenue | Seattle, WA 98122 | seattlefirstbaptist.org

Children are a treasured part of our community. Please find a Worship Adventure Packet or a Busy Box at the tables in the foyer. Children are free to use these resources in the pews or in the Wiggle Room, a mostly soundproof room on the north end of the sanctuary where young worshippers and people who need to move around can see and hear the service.

Every minor in the Wiggle Room must be attended by an adult.

We invite you to look at the banners hanging above the sanctuary and note that they display quilt square designs. Each quilt square is a visual representation of the theme for one given worship service of Advent and Christmas. This morning's theme is:



DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH From a center point, tulip-like flowers stretch and bloom, referencing the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, "The Earth laughs in flowers."

We gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, past and present. With gratitude, we honor the land itself and the legacy of the First People of Seattle, the Duwamish Tribe. May we remember that the oppression of Native peoples is not a relic of the past but continues today. And may we, through God's Spirit, repent and walk forward together, changing systems that discriminate as we live into authentic diversity and healing.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**If it is comfortable, you are invited to stand.*

Announcements

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

Prelude

Christian Broughton

“Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen,” Op. 122, No. 8

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Pastor Anita Peebles

Passing of the Peace

***Carol 145**

“Once in Royal David’s City” IRBY *arr.* D. WILLCOCKS

1. Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for a bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. Jesus came to earth from heaven,
who is God and Head of all,
Sheltered in a rustic stable,
cradled in a common stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. And through all this wondrous childhood
Jesus honored and obeyed,
Loved and watched the tender mother
whose strong arms a cradle made.
So, like Jesus, we should be serving God obediently.

4. Jesus is our childhood’s pattern,
daily like us lived and grew,
Jesus, little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles and comfort knew.
Jesus felt the pain of sadness,
and the joyous lift of gladness.

5. We at last shall meet our Savior,
fount of God’s redeeming grace,
For that Child so dear and gentle
reigns within a glorious place;
Leading all God’s children on
to the heav’n where saints have gone.

The First Lesson

ISAIAH 11:1-10 (NRSVUE)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

“Of the Parent’s Heart Begotten”

1. Of the Parent’s heart begotten
 When the worlds were yet to be,
 One there was with no beginning,
 One who is eternally—
 Source and Ending of all things that have
 been,
 And all things that are to be,
 Forever and forever.

2. By this Word was all created,
 By this Word were all things done:
 Land and air and deepest ocean,
 Harmony of three in one,
 And all growing in the luminance
 Shed forth from the moon and sun,
 Forever and forever.

3. Blessed dawning of salvation
 As the Word is breathed in grace
 Into earthly flesh receiving—
 God incarnate taking place;
 Now the light of God revealed
 Through the Child of human face,
 Forever and forever.

4. Now behold the One whom prophets
 Have foretold for ages long
 On the faithful page of scripture,
 Seers and sages in their song;
 Now the Promised One shines forth!
 Let all earth its praise prolong
 Forever and forever.

5. Depths and heights break forth in singing,
 Angels, saints make melody,
 All dominions, every power sing,
 Make new psalms of ecstasy,
 Let no heart refrain from praising God,
 Celebrate in harmony,
 Forever and forever.

The Second Lesson

ISAIAH 35:1-10 (NRSVUE)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the

Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Carol 131

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
Great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way,
With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

4. For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

The Third Lesson

MATTHEW 1:1-17 (NRSVUE)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the

father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Carol

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

WALTHAM

1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their old fa - mil - iar car - ols play,
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom
 3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,
 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
 5. Then ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The world re - volved from night to day -

5

And wild and sweet the words re - peat Of peace on earth, good - will to all.
 Had rolled a - long th' un - bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good - will to all.
 "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good - will to all."
 The wrong shall fail, the right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good - will to all."
 A voice, a chime, a chant sub - lime Of peace on earth, good - will to all!

The Fourth Lesson

LUKE 1:26-38 (NRSVUE)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with

you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Carol 127

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ES IST EIN’ ROS

1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
 From tender stem has sprung!
 Of Jesse’s lineage coming
 as saints of old have sung.
 It came a floweret bright,
 Amid the cold of winter,
 When half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah had foretold it,
 The Rose I have in mind,
 With Mary we beheld it,
 The Virgin Mother kind.
 To show God’s love aright,
 She bore to us a Savior,
 When half spent was the night.

The Fifth Lesson

MATTHEW 1:18-25 (NRSVUE)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

arr. D. WILLCOCKS; words by JEFFREY WILSOR



1. God rest ye mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may!
2. God rest you al - so, wo - men, who by men have been e - rased,
3. God rest you, queer and ques - tion - ing, your anx - ious hearts be still,
4. God rest your mind, O hu - man - kind, let strife and con - flict cease.



Re - mem - ber Christ will bring love's light the dawn of Christ - mas day,
Through his - to - ry ig - nored and scorned, de - fil - ed and dis - placed;
Be - lieve that you are deep - ly known and part of God's good will
Re - mem - ber love is ac - tive here, and on - ly to in - crease,



To lead us all from woe and sin when we have gone a - stray.
Re - mem - ber that your sto - ries too, are held with - in God's grace.
For all to live as one in peace; the glo - bal dream ful - filled.
To car - ry us to well - springs of God's joy - ous hope and peace.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

The Sixth Lesson

LUKE 1:39-58 (NRSVUE)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for

he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

Carol 165

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

WHITNEY

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas; Star and angels gave the sign.	2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine; Worship we our Jesus, But where is God’s sacred sign?	3. Love shall be our token; Love be yours and love be mine; Love to God and neighbor, Love for plea and gift and sign.
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The Seventh Lesson

LUKE 2:1-7 (NRSVUE)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.	2. For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
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3. How silently, how silently,
 The wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of his heaven.
 No ear may hear his coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive him, still
 The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem!
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in;
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Emmanuel!

The Eighth Lesson

LUKE 2:8-20 (NRSVUE)

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

*Carol 125

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply,
 Echo back their joyous strains,
*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo,
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 Say what may the tidings be,
 Which inspire your heavenly song. [*refrain*]

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
 Christ whose birth the angels sing;
 Come adore on bended knee,
 God, our world now entering. [*refrain*]

4. See the babe in manger laid
 Whom the choirs of angels praise;
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
 While our hearts in love we raise.
 [*refrain*]

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: “For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
and for the word of God within us”

All: “Thanks be to God”

***Carol 139**

“The First Nowell”

THE FIRST NOWELL

arr. D. WILLCOCKS

1. The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

2. They looked above and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
[refrain]

3. And by the light of that same star
Three sages came from country far,
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *[refrain]*

4. This star shone bright in the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it seemed to rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *[refrain]*

5. Then entered in those magi three,
And bending low upon their knee,
They offered there, in great reverence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *[refrain]*

Litany

(based on JOHN 1:1-14)

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

ALL: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humans, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent’s only son, full of grace and truth.

*Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

arr. D. WILLCOCKS

1. O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels,

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come let us
adore him,*

O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of Light,

Lo! God abhors not the Virgin’s womb;

Very God, Begotten, not created: *[refrain]*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:

“Glory to God, all glory in the highest,”

[refrain]

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this
happy morning,

Jesus to thee be all glory giv’n.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

[refrain]

Benediction

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

Postlude

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Christian Broughton

arr. NOEL RAWSTHORNE

Email contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org to reach any SFBC staff or council members.

STAFF

Rev. Anita Peebles, *Pastor*

Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove, *Pastor*

Darren Hochstedler, *Church Administrator*

Christina Sunstone, *Office Manager & Small Group
Ministries Coordinator*

Ben Luedcke, *Minister of Music*

Christian Broughton, *Organist & Communications Manager*

Dick Steele, *Facilities Manager*

Chase McAdams, *Caretaker*

Stephenie Simmons, *Chef*

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HAPPY
New
Year
2025

from



seattle

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTIST'S STATEMENT



First Sunday After Christmas | WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING
DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH



LET ALL CREATION DANCE

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 2:10, Matthew 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3,
Psalm 148, Isaiah 55:12-13

*Ink dyes and gold resist on silk,
with digital collage*

This quilt square collage shows the ripple effect of joy dancing throughout all creation.

In the nativity story, the birth of Christ is meant to bring universal joy and good news to all people, especially those like the shepherds who might be estranged, undervalued, or marginalized (Luke 2:10). Joy greets the Magi during their long and arduous journey; when the star stops, they know they are close (Matthew 2:10).

In addition to the Christmas story, this piece is also inspired by the rich poetry of praise found throughout many Hebrew scriptures. For those enduring exile, God brings exaltation that multiplies (Isaiah 9:2-3). The psalmist sings praise for the God of the mountains and hills as well as the highest heavens and starry skies (Psalm 148). The prophet Isaiah casts a new vision of people returning home as the trees clap their hands and the mountains and hills sing shouts of praise (Isaiah 55:12-13).

For the focal point of this design, I chose an eight-pointed star, which is symbolic in many cultures and religious traditions.¹¹ In Judeo-Christian traditions, the number eight symbolizes new beginnings, as seven is the number of completion. The eight points can also represent the four cardinal directions combined with the four elements: fire, air, water, and earth. For many, an eight-pointed star means harmony and balance.

In this image, I wanted the landscape to feel refracted, perhaps like a prism, or even a broken mirror. The land rejoices despite forces that try to break it. The horizon expands into all directions. There is no east or west, north or south—the arms of creation reach into the cosmos. In between stars and moons, fruit trees bear their harvest and clap their hands.

In many ways, this piece is a song of praise as well as a song of resistance. Creation cannot be quieted. If praise is not on your lips this day, do not fear, for we can trust that all of creation is dancing on our behalf. —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

¹¹ In the process of creating this piece, I learned that the eight-pointed star quilt is integral to many Native people of North America. Learn more from Dakota quilter Gwen Westerman by watching this video: [youtube.com/watch?v=4WYiLZOPl0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WYiLZOPl0)