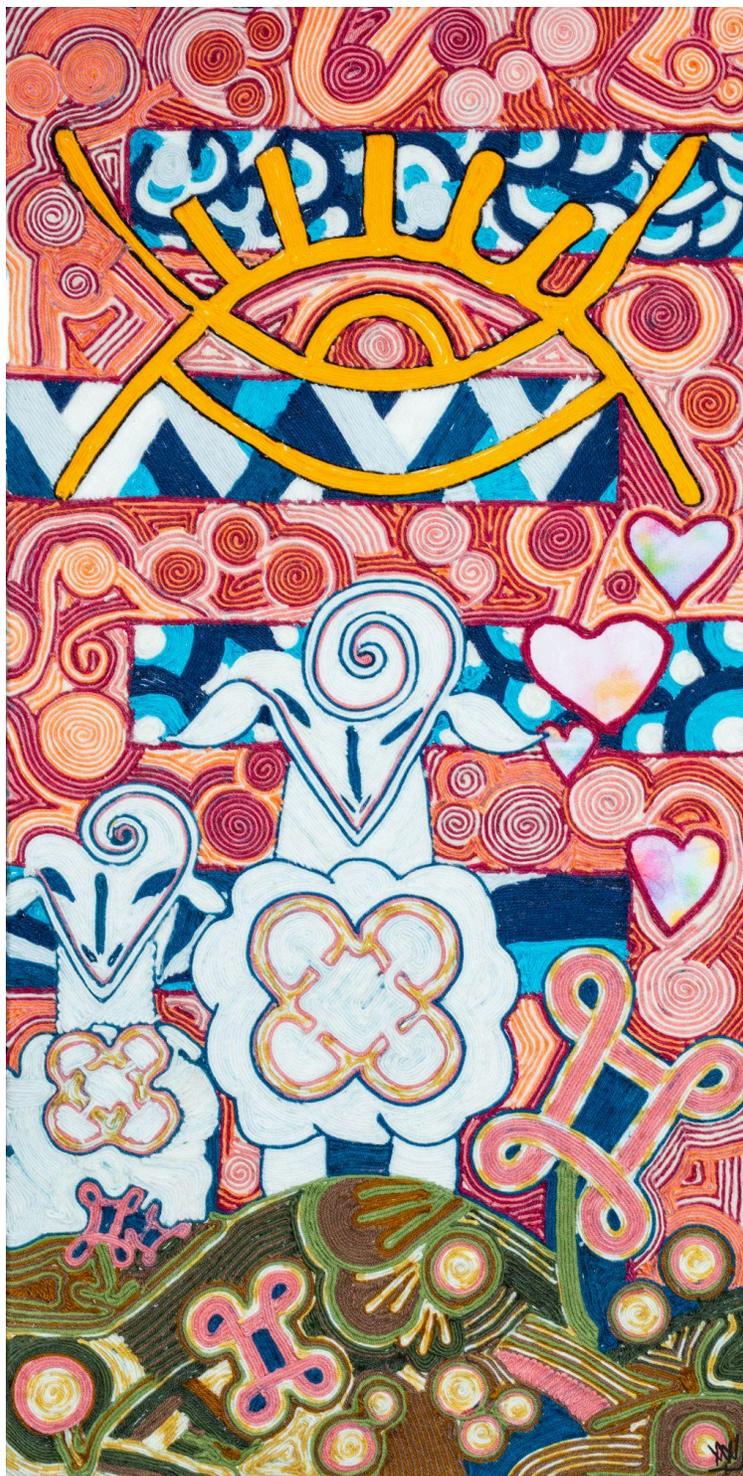


First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024



Feed My Sheep

by Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by John 21:1-19 | Yarn and paper collage on canvas

— ARTIST’S STATEMENT —

Feed My Sheep holds a special place in my heart as it is inspired by the text a dear friend of mine used for their ordination. This piece reminds me of their long and complicated journey that led them to the priesthood, much like Peter....

This entire piece¹⁵ (with the exception of the three hearts) is made of yarn. For some reason, the feeling of a sheep’s wool kept sticking out to me everytime I read this text. We refer to Jesus as both *el Cordero de Dios*¹⁶ and the shepherd. So why not lean into sheep imagery? I thought the piece would be more vibrant for Easter in contrast to the pieces I created for Lent. This would really take viewers on a spiritual journey while studying Peter.

This post-resurrection story concludes the wandering for Peter so the subject of this piece sits in front of the Adinkra symbol, *Nkyinkyim*,¹⁷ for life’s twisted journey. We have seen the ins and outs of his ministry as he accompanies Jesus, which brings us to this dialogue between the two. (*You may read more of this artist’s statement at the end of the bulletin.*)

¹⁵ The original is a 24” x 48” canvas.

¹⁶ Spanish for “Lamb of God.”

¹⁷ View the symbol and learn more about it here: adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/nkyinkyim/

— WELCOME —

Welcome | We are so glad you could join us today!

If you are a visitor, please stop by the welcome table for information about our church. Listening devices and large print bulletins are available from one of our ushers. Please let us know if there is any way we may support or pray for you.

Special Note for Families with Children

The nursery/toddler room in the narthex opens at 9:15am for children under the age of 4. Children ages 4 through 5th grade will be dismissed during the Passing of the Peace for Sunday school. Teachers will bring your children to the oak tree outside of the sanctuary at the end of the service.

Affordable Housing Tour this Tuesday

Please join us as we visit some of the Community HousingWorks properties on Tuesday, April 9. The first housing community we will visit is North Park Seniors, located at 4200 Texas St., San Diego, 92014. We plan to begin our visit at 10:00am. If you would like to carpool, meet at the Richardson Hall parking lot at 9:15am. The other two properties we will visit include Amanecer (Linda Vista) and Puesta Del Sol (Linda Vista). Additionally, there are three other properties you may "drive by" and visit on your own time: Keeler Court, Kimball Highland and Paradise Creek (Southcrest/National City). For questions, please contact Cindy Graham at: outreachandoperations@firstpres-elcajon.org. To view the above community properties or to learn more about Community HousingWorks visit www.chworks.org.

~ Please see additional announcements at the back of your bulletin ~

— GATHERING —

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said,

“Follow me.”

Jesus said,

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Jesus said,

“Forgive seventy times seven.”

Jesus said,

“Feed my sheep.”

In response, we say:

“Here’s my heart.

Take and seal it.

Seal it for thy courts above.”

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

SONG: “10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)”

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

O my soul,

worship his holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul,

I’ll worship your holy name

The sun comes up,

it’s a new day dawning

It’s time to sing your song again

Whatever may pass and

whatever lies before me

Let me be singing

when the evening comes

Chorus

You’re rich in love

and you’re slow to anger

Your name is great

and your heart is kind

For all your goodness,

I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons

for my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day

when my strength is failing

The end draws near

and my time has come

Still my soul will sing

your praise unending

Ten thousand years

and then forevermore

Chorus (x2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.
You tell us your truth and we push it away.
We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.
We profess our faith and then deny it three times.
We run to the empty tomb and leave in silent wonder.
Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith.
Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited
imagination. Call us out of the boat once more.
We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

**Please take a moment for your personal prayers of confession.*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

**Children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

HYMN: "COME THOU FOUNT"

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love
Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I'm come

And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood
O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee

Prone to wander Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

Here's my heart Lord
take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

POEM: “THE HARDEST BLESSING” ~ *written by Jan Richardson*

If we cannot
lay aside the wound,
then let us say
it will not always
bind us.

Let us say
the damage
will not eternally
determine our path.

Let us say
the line of our life
will not always travel
along the places
we are torn.

Let us say
that forgiveness
can take some practice,
can take some patience,
can take a long
and struggling time.

Let us say
that to offer
the hardest blessing,
we will need
the deepest grace;

that to forgive
the sharpest pain,
we will need
the fiercest love;
that to release
the ancient ache,
we will need
new strength
for every day.

Let us say
the wound
will not be
our final home—
that through it
runs a road,
a way we would not
have chosen
but on which
we will finally see
forgiveness,
so long practiced,
coming toward us,
shining with the joy
so well deserved.

— PROCLAIMING THE WORD —

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 21:1-19 (NIV)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ “I’m going out

to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered.

⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “WANDERING HEART: *Here’s my heart*”

— RESPONDING —

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.

We believe in a God who cares for God's people—
a shepherd who longs for their sheep to be fed and tended.

We believe in a God who took on flesh—
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.

We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,
calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community.

And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.

SONG: "COME AS YOU ARE"

Come out of sadness
from wherever you've been
Come broken-hearted
let rescue begin
Come find your mercy,
O sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow
that heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow
that heaven can't heal

Chorus

Lay down your burdens
lay down your shame
All who are broken
lift up your face
O wanderer come home
you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down
your heart, come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless
and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table,
come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary,
rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow
that heaven can't cure

Chorus

There's joy for the morning
O sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow
that heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow
that heaven can't heal

Chorus

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

COMMUNION

The Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer

English

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.

Spanish

Padre nuestro que
estás en los cielos
Santificado sea tu
Nombre Venga tu reino
Hágase tu voluntad En la
tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy el pan
de este día
y perdona nuestras deudas
como nosotros perdonamos
nuestros deudores y no nos
dejes caer en la tentación sino
que líbranos del malo.
Porque tuyo es el reino y el
poder y la gloria por siempre.
Amen.

Arabic

أَبَانَا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ
لِيَتَقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ
لِيَأْتِ مَلَكُوتُكَ
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ
اعطنا خبزنا كفافنا اليوم
واغفر لنا خطايانا
كما نحن ايضا نغفر لمن اخطا الينا
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي التَّجْرِبَةِ
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّيرِ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمُلْكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ
أَمِين

The Words of Institution

COMMUNION MUSIC: "LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER"

Let us break bread together
on our knees
Let us break bread together
on our knees

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together
on our knees
Let us drink wine together
on our knees (*Refrain*)

Let us praise God together
on our knees
Let us praise God together
on our knees. (*Refrain*)

— SENDING —

SONG: “CANNONS”

It's falling from the clouds
A strange and lovely sound
I hear it in the thunder and the rain
It's ringing in the skies
Like cannons in the night
The music of the universe plays

Chorus

You are holy great and mighty
The moon and the stars
declare who You are
I feel unworthy
but still You love me
Forever my heart will sing
of how great You are

Beautiful and free
The song of galaxies
Reaching far beyond the Milky Way
Let's join in with the sound
Come on let's sing it out
As the music of the universe plays
You are holy great and mighty
The moon and the stars
declare who You are
I feel unworthy but still You love me
Forever my heart will sing of You
All glory honor power is Yours amen
All glory honor power is Yours amen
All glory honor power is Yours
forever amen

Chorus (repeat)

BENEDICTION

— THANK YOU —

USHERS | Anthony Goodman and Ginny Wisley

READER & LITURGIST | Heidi McKinley and Ida Ramsey

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART | Cindy Graham

SLIDES | Janice Fischer

COMMUNION SERVERS | Jan Hopwood, Susan Jarboe, Genie Strom, George Williams

FLOWERS | Janna Laughon in loving memory & honor of her uncle Chuck West's 94th birthday which would have been today, April 7th. And, Cathy Bailes in loving memory of Michael Wallace in honor of his March 25th birthday.

LITURGY AND PRAYERS | Liturgy adapted by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

— ARTIST’S STATEMENT —

Peter is asked three times if he loves Jesus, which to all he replies in the affirmative. In this piece, the two of them are portrayed as sheep, Peter being at the right hand of Jesus. The sheep are branded with *Agyinduwura*¹⁸ at the center of their chests. They carry with them a symbol of loyalty and faithfulness. They are loyal to Jesus, faithful to the promise of salvation, and accepting of their duty to carry the Good News with them to the people of Christ. The face of each sheep is the symbol *Kokuromotie*¹⁹ to represent cooperation and harmony. Jesus asking Peter to feed his sheep demonstrates the faith that Jesus has in Peter to do this work. This value of cooperation is also present in the *Mpatapo-shaped*²⁰ flowers in the field. They are symbols of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Remember, Peter denied his relationship with Jesus several times before Jesus was executed. Above the sheep sits *Kojo Baiden*.²¹ God has traditionally been represented as the sun in various cultures, which brings us to this omnipresent symbol operating as such in this piece. And to the left we see *Akoma*,²² or hearts. While we interpret the heart as love, it is also a symbol for endurance and patience. Peter gets to this point by maintaining goodwill and faith in the message of Jesus. He stumbled through the journey and at times caused more harm than good, but Christ was also patient with him.

Here’s my heart. Here are the things I care about so deeply. And you—someone who makes mistakes, doesn’t follow directions, and sometimes even betrays me—you are so loved and trusted enough to keep this good work going even after I’m gone.

This is a message to all of us. It doesn’t matter how poorly you may think of yourself or how others may view you. To Christ, you are beautifully and fearfully made. And Christ believes in you in spite of it all. —Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

¹⁸ View the symbol and learn more about it here: adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/agyindawuru/

¹⁹ View the symbol and learn more about it here: adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/kokuromotie/

²⁰ View the symbol and learn more about it here: adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/mpatapo/

²¹ Also known as Abode Santann. Learn more here: adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/abode-santann/

²² View the symbol and learn more about it here: adinkrasymbols.org/symbols/akoma/

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Next Committee Quarterly *New Date

Mark your calendars to join us after service on Sunday, April 28 in Richardson Hall for a discussion about the Community HousingWorks field trip. Some Session committees will be meeting afterwards, if desired. All are welcome to attend!

Get a Nametag for Your Child!

In an effort to know each other’s names, you can sign up your kids to receive a free name tag to wear on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in this, just write their name(s) on the white board by the welcome table on Sundays. Just a note that the first name tag is free; parent/guardian will need to pay for any replacement nametags.

Penny Turk Scholarship Applications

This \$500 scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate college students who have been or are currently active in our church. A flier with application instructions is located in the narthex. Letters are due by May 31 in the church office or given to Wanda Feldner.

Donate Your Old Eyeglasses, Cell Phones & Hearing Aids

Used eyeglasses, cell phones, and hearing aids are collected in the Lions Club Box in the narthex. Just ask an usher for assistance if needed. These items will be given to the El Cajon Valley Host Lions Club and then provided to people around the world who need eye glasses, hearing aids and/or cell phones. Please call Cathy and Keith Bailes if you have any questions: (619) 787-6173. Thank you so much for your donations.

Protein Pack Items Needed

We are welcoming more protein bars/drinks, packaged meats, packaged fruit/fruit snacks and nuts for protein packs for our unsheltered neighbors. You may drop items into the cart in the narthex.

Lost and Found

Last month a women's black trench coat with house and car keys was found in Thomson Hall. If these items are yours, please call or email the office.

Prayer Chain

Have a prayer request? Place it in the prayer box in the narthex and it will be forwarded to our prayer chain. Have something to celebrate? Fill out a gratitude card — *we want to rejoice with you!*

Join Our Weekly E-blast

Our weekly email contains sermon reflection questions, announcements, and additional ways of connecting, sign up on our website or send an email to office@firstpres-elcajon.org.

2024 Sign Up Flower Calendar Is Here!

Check your calendars to get your name on the Flower Chart to reserve your memories for 2024! Sign up on the patio, or contact Ginny Wisley 619.337.6444 or ginny-beth@att.net.

— WEEK AT-A-GLANCE —

Monday, April 8

1:00pm - Knit for Kids (*Thomson Hall*)

6:30pm - Circle Players Rehearsal (*Richardson Hall*)

Tuesday, April 9

10:00am - Community HousingWorks Tours *Meet at Richardson Hall at 9:15am to carpool

10:00am - Making Art/Making Conversation (*Thomson Hall*)

5:30pm - Dining Divas and Dining Dudes

Wednesday, April 10

12:00pm - Skeptics & Seekers Class (*Thomson Hall*)

3:00pm - Prayer on the Circle (*Zoom*)

6:00pm - Jubilation Bells Rehearsal (*Bailey Hall*)

7:00pm - Celebration Bells Rehearsal (*Bailey Hall*)

Thursday, April 11

4:00pm - Kidz Klub (*Campus*)

6:00pm - Worship Team Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

Saturday, April 13

9:00am - Centering Prayer (*Bailey Hall*)

Sunday, April 14

8:15am - Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

8:30am - Worship Team Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

9:30am - Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

Our Mission

Connecting people to Jesus and each other.

Our Vision

To be a spiritually healthy church that reaches out to its congregation, community, and beyond through music, fellowship, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our Values

Spiritual Growth ~ Service ~ Compassion ~ Community

Staff & Contact Information

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