

## A Note from Mother Darlene

### Why are the Arts important to the church and the community?

*"It is self-expressing the world/God's beauty in each individual's artistic way. Personally, I feel heaven or one's thought on the afterlife, can also be an extension of their art. I think it will be much more complex than what we see and experience here. I also personally feel connected sometimes, to loved ones who have passed while painting certain pieces. Each piece is a very personal, emotional, and meaningful journey. Joy, love, fulfillment, compassion, contentment, and expression are all happening while I create. It's about a certain level of connection, a higher level of connection."*

Judy Sutherland, artist and sister of the rector

In the Episcopal Church we stand, we sit, and we kneel. We sing, we sashay and wave streamers, we listen, and we pray. Our worship is very sensual and pleasing to all our senses. Churches have the lingering scent of incense, flowers, and beeswax. There is the visual beauty of stained glass, or in the Mediator's case, faceted slab glass windows. There is the beauty of wood panels and unobstructed views out to God's beautiful world. There is the touch of silks and linens and beautifully ornate vestments and hangings. There are the rich sounds of bells and pipe organs and parlor grand pianos and guitars. The taste and aroma of wine and bread and coffee hour and potlucks. Where there is a church there is food.

Our worship of God is with our whole being, our minds, our hearts, our physical self, and our soul, just as we are called to love God. We worship through tradition, scripture, and reason, and our senses.

### **Matthew 22:37-40, King James Version**

**37** *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

**38** *This is the first and great commandment.*

**39** *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

**40** *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

## Matthew 22:37-40, The Message

**37-40** Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

The Arts allow us to express this love for God through so many creative avenues. Songs allow us to tell our story, God's story through poetry and music. Songs help us to remember the stories and share them with others. Stained glass windows allow us to share our stories even with those who cannot read, a visual reminder of who we are and what we believe.

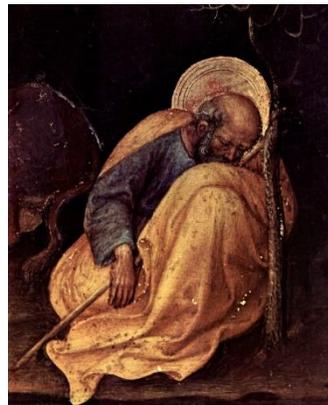
## Mediator's Stained Glass Collection and Information

Click [here](#) to read about our stained glass collection and print the brochure. The stained glass windows are listed with the Michigan Stained Glass Census, sponsored by the Michigan State University Museum

Art can depict the artist's beliefs and theology.

For example, is Joseph, Mary's husband, depicted as an old man or a young man?

If Mary is a perpetual virgin, then Joseph was more likely to be an older man who was previously married with children before marrying Mary.



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Gentile, da Fabriano, ca. 1370-1427. Adoration of the Three Kings, detail of Joseph at Rest, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=46782> [retrieved September 15, 2022]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gentile\\_da\\_Fabriano\\_030.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gentile_da_Fabriano_030.jpg).

Carpenter Joseph Returning from Work, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56769> [retrieved September 15, 2022]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/17329661475> - Fr Lawrence Lew, O.P..

Sharing of the Eucharist, coffee hour, and potluck dinners remind us of our hope for the great banquet with God. Taste, smell, touch, sight, and hearing are all part of this.

*On this mountain, the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. Isaiah 25:6*

We are created in God's image and as such God invites us into the creative process whether through procreation, gardening and farming, song, music, dance, drawing, painting, weaving, knitting, needlework, metalworking, sculpting, and so many other ways. We are created to be creative beings.

We are called not only to worship God but to have that worship and creative process change us forever. We grow from the self-centeredness of a child enthralled by our own toes to turn and look outward to all that surrounds us, to bathe ourselves in the beauty of God's creation, to see those who live around us, our parents, our family, our friends, our neighborhood and the richness and beauty of the world around us. We learn to see the beauty of a sunrise and a sunset, the beauty of the sun glistening in the dew of a spiderweb, and the beauty of a baby's toes. As we mature we also begin to see the ugliness and injustices that surround us and feel a compulsion to correct those wrongs. Photographs of war, the art of the abused, tattoos, the rebellion of the graffiti artist, and the songs of the punk rocker are expressions of the emotional state of the artist and what they see wrong or right in the world.

As much as we would love to welcome our neighbors to worship with us on Sunday morning, we know this is unlikely to happen. So we take our understanding of God out into the world with us in how we live our lives, in our work, in our art.

The labyrinth is an ancient form of art dating back to ancient Greece. The first documented labyrinth is from 5 BC in Egypt. We built our labyrinth and the Mediator Prayer Path in 2020/2021 in memory of beloved family members, but also as an invitation to our neighbors to enjoy the outdoors and our church grounds in meditation, walking, and prayer. Our rain garden, open land conservancy, and landscaping are our attempts at a practical but beautiful garden that fits in with the natural beauty of Chikaming Township.

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator began as a house church and a summer chapel in the 1960s. The current church was dedicated in 2010. The design was in keeping with that of an older established building in keeping with the surroundings, a beautiful, unobtrusive reminder of God's presence. Our art show running through September was to invite people to come in and visit our church, to admire some artwork, study our faceted slab glass windows and share some fellowship with us.

We have a Little Library and a Tiny Art Gallery on the back side of our property which are very popular with our neighbors. A neighbor joined The Artist's Way, a spiritual path to higher creativity, hosted by St Augustine's Rev Cynthia Caruso and Mediator's Julie Bender as co-hosts when she saw a notice in the Tiny Art Gallery.

We host concerts and recitals with SAM, the School of American Music. We welcome dance and theatre.

The Arts are important to The Episcopal Church of the Mediator and to our community in Harbor Country.

Love, Mother Darlene+