

Season of Creation



Based on the Seasons of Creation texts set for four Sundays in September, a team of Ingrid Wilkshire, Chris Mogg, and Juanita Lieschke, with theological input from Rolph Mayer, created 12 paintings now suspended on a wall in Immanuel Lutheran church, North Adelaide,

The following is an explanation/interpretation. We have used the word, 'interpretation' deliberately because symbolic art can mean different things to different people.

Set 1 Theme: Planet Earth

The first square is pure black symbolising nothingness. God created the universe out of nothing.

The centre square has the Greek word 'logos', which means 'word'. God spoke the creation into existence.

The right-hand square is a display of brilliant colours symbolising the rich variety and brilliance of God's creation.

The three paintings also symbolise God's new creation of us as his special people in Christ.

The first pure black square symbolises our deadness as sinners.

The second symbolises Christ who is called the 'logos' in John's Gospel. Christ is God's word of forgiveness and life to us.

The result is a beautiful new life, symbolised by the right-hand square.

Set 2 – Theme: Humanity

The first square with its pair of hand reaching out and down symbolises service. God has created us human beings for service to each other and planet earth. To be fully human involves an attitude of service.

The second square with its many hands touching each other symbolises togetherness. God has created us humans to live in community.

The third square with its hand reaching upward symbolises fellowship with God. God has created us to be in fellowship with him.

The three pictures are also symbols of Christ.

Christ came to earth to serve and as the supreme example of service.

Christ has made us members of the special community, the communion of saints.

Christ was always in perfect union with the Father and has brought us into full fellowship with him.

Set 3 – Theme: The sky

The first picture portrays the sun which is the source of light and life and is the dispeller of darkness. It is therefore a symbol of Christ who is the light of the world and the conqueror of the evil forces of darkness.

The second picture portrays the sky which is a sign of the beauty and infinity of the universe. It is therefore also a symbol of Christ who is robed in splendour, who is alive for evermore and who has given us the beautiful gift of eternal life.

The third picture depicts the moon, a symbol of tranquility, rest and sleep. As such it is also a symbol of the peace and rest that we have in Christ.

Set 4 – Theme: Mountains

The first square depicts a mountain. Mountains symbolise rock-solid strength and security. They are therefore also a symbol of God who is a tower of strength and unwavering in his commitment to his promises. A mountain is also a symbol of the completely unshakeable love of God for us in Christ.

The centre square portrays a city set on a mountain. It symbolises God's special presence amongst his people in Jerusalem set on Mt Zion. It also then symbolises the promised New Jerusalem on a new Mt Zion, a city of celebration and joy made possible through Christ's death on another 'mountain' — Mt Calvary.

The third square depicts a crown. In God's new mountain-city we live as citizens, but not just ordinary citizens. We are royal citizens, for we share in the royalty of Christ as his adopted brothers and sisters.

— Rolph Mayer