

The Church has had a long history of visual art, telling the story of God's relationship with humanity. The earliest examples appeared in the catacombs. Over the centuries visual art was used to spread the gospel to those who were illiterate as well as enhancing places of worship.

Visual art took divergent paths in Eastern and Western churches - different visions playing important roles in teaching and drawing people closer to God. Whether the art was "naturalistic" or "symbolic," in the liturgical context, the purpose was the same – to praise and glorify God, supporting the preaching of God's Word.

God's creation is much more than just functional (Psalm 19). Creativity, inexpressible beauty, and design are evident in creation, God using these elements as high priorities of His handiwork.

When art is incorporated in the worship setting this creative element often inspires and enhances the experience.

Corporately we gather to declare the truths of God and express our hearts to Him. Visual art engages the senses helping people participate in worship with the emotions, the body, and the imagination. Art does not need to be a distraction in worship but coupled with music and the spoken word will move the hearts of both adults and children.

Art in the sanctuary is not only to beautify and "decorate" but to help us see with fresh eyes the story of God and the Bible.

The Creation Window is the first of a series of twelve that will be installed in our sanctuary over the months ahead, all designed to show the story of God's saving work described in the Holy Scriptures. We are thankful to our artist, Eileen Miryektá, for sharing her gift of art in drawing us closer to our Creator.



“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary us words.”

St. Francis of Assisi

About the Artist: Eileen Miryekta

I have been an artist since I was old enough to hold a crayon. I have loved all kinds of arts and crafts including painting, drawn, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, lithography, photography, stained glass, and basket weaving. These last 25 years I have concentrated on watercolor painting. I have done paintings of Italy, France, England Ireland, as well as Canada, California, the East Coast, and many sites in the Northwest.

I received a BA in Art in 1972 and a teaching credential in 1973. I have taught art and fifth grade for 30 plus years. In 2000, I received my MA in Art. I have taught many adult workshops to train teachers in art methods and techniques.

I have had paintings in the 74th Northwest Watercolor Society International show of 2014, the Annual Juried show of Seattle CoArts of 2014 and 2015, The Plein Air Washington Painters Show in 2013, three Women Painters of Washington shows, Fremont Arts Walk in 2014, the Edmonds Art Festival Miniature show, the MIVAL 2014 Miniature Show, Moonshadow Gallery in June Lake 2002-2014, The Center for Wooden Boats at Lake Union and Cama Beach, the Federal Way City Hall 2013 and 2014, and have sold work through other sites as well as commissions. also, I did the poster for the 2013 37th Annual Lake Union Wooden Boat Festival.

In May 2015, I won the Tacoma Museum of Art Still Life contest. this still life, "My Favorite Things," gave me an opportunity to select precious objects from my life and paint them while dwelling on the history of each object as they represent the story of my past.

I belong to several painting and art groups such as the Women Painters of Washington, Northwest Watercolor Society, CoArts, Plain Air Washington Painter, "Let's Get Together and Paint," and I help organize the group called "Let's Paint Around Seattle," which is a Plein Air punting group.

I love to paint and paint daily and twice a week with groups. I prefer landscape, seascape, and cityscape watercolor to any other media. This is the very first time I have painted on glass. It was great fun and personally inspiring. I hope you enjoy viewing my work as much as I do creating it.

The Creation Window



Midway Community Covenant Church