



VISIBLE

FAITH

A JOURNEY IN PRAYER

Prayers for Visible Faith

INTRODUCTION:

We hope that many of the pictures in this exhibition will lead you to prayer, as you respond to the God who speaks to you through them. The words in *italics* are the author's personal response to the picture and theme, which she hopes you might feel can be your prayer too. But each picture will rouse a different response in each visitor, and so the words in **bold** are a prayer that we will each experience our own encounters as we make our way through the exhibition. We can record our discoveries and prayers as we journey round.

The numbers in brackets e.g. (11) refer to the numbers in 'A Guide to the Methodist Art Collection'.

The artworks marked with an asterisk* have been reproduced as postcards, which you can buy.

The pictures chosen for the SCHOOLS can be found at the altar end of the building.

You can visit the pictures on-line at:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/artcollection/index.htm>

'He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small:
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.'
(from 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'
by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.)

PRAYER AS YOU START YOUR TOUR

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in these pictures;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

GOD IN OUR CITY:

1. The Cross over the City (11)

*Jesus, your cross of suffering love is found within our city walls.
May it point us to the living hope we have in you.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

IN THE BEGINNING:

2. Untitled – Pentecost – SCHOOLS (3)

*Spirit of God, brooding over the chaos of existence,
Bring the light of your presence into our dark world.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

3. Cain and Abel (29)

*God our loving parent, your children find it hard to love one another;
Take from us the envy and hatred that destroy us.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

INTO HUMAN LIFE:

4. The Annunciation (13)

*Find us, Lord, wherever we are and help us say 'yes'
To the surprising challenges you have for our lives.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

5. Dalit Madonna (43)

*You, the Lord of all Creation, fitting snugly into your mother's arms,
Allow me to nestle by your heart and cling closely to you.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

6. Nativity polyptych – SCHOOLS (19)

*There you are, Lord, helpless, homeless and in danger,
As you come to turn this cruel and godless world upside down!!*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

7. Epiphany (16)

*Lord, help us to be wise and follow the hard road
To our spiritual home that is lit up by your love.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

8. Three Kings (23)

*The light shines on in the darkness, guiding us to worship you
And to offer you the treasure of ourselves and of our lives.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

9. Rest on the Flight to Egypt (28)

*Lord, when the troubles of life drive us into empty, barren places
Give us shelter, repose, and a new fruitfulness.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

A NEW START:

10. Nathaniel (5)

Too often we hide in sleep and shelter – but you see all!

Wake us up, Lord, by the call to a new, full life in you!

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

11. The Son of Man (2)

*Good Shepherd, you set your mind to seek and save us
and would not give up.*

Give us the same determination to offer your love to those who are lost.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

WHO IS THIS JESUS?:

12. The Five Thousand* - SCHOOLS (7)

13. Feeding of the Five Thousand – SCHOOLS (30)

It is your presence, Lord that makes the heavenly feast!

You take and transform what we bring – ourselves and the little we have.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

14. Storm over the lake* (8)

Saviour, when the storms of life wash over us and we feel all is lost

Speak your calming word of peace, we pray, and we will be saved.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

15. The healing of the lunatic boy* (31)

Surround us, healing Lord, with the light and warmth of your presence

That we may be made whole and know life in all its fullness.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

16. The Pool of Bethesda* (4)

*Among the suffering, alongside the blind, the lame, the paralysed,
We see you, Jesus, blessing us and calling us back to life.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

17. The raising of Lazarus* (32)

18. The raising of Lazarus (45)

*A love stronger than death is yours, Friend Jesus,
You do not abandon us to death, but call us to Life with you.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

19. The woman taken in adultery

*Teacher, help us see the truth about sin and forgiveness.
Free us by your love to return to you and one another.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

20. Good Friday 2006 – Walking on water

21. Walking on water

*Trusting yourself to your creation, even the waters of death,
You dared all for love. We ask for faith to dare all for you.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

HOLY WEEK:

22. Christ's entry into Jerusalem (1)

23. Christ enters Jerusalem (47)

*With colour, grace and humility you ride into our lives;
Saviour King on a donkey, we greet you with worship and praise.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

24. The washing of the feet (18)

*Servant God, our feet are dirty from walking along the wrong paths,
Yet you come down to our level and tenderly wash them clean.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

25. Holy Communion Predella (20)

*You are present, Lord, at every meal and meeting, and in the bread and
the wine.*

May we feed in our hearts on your presence, today and every day.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

26. The elements of the Holy Communion* (22)

*You taught your disciples, Lord, to find you in the bread and wine;
In the brokenness and the pouring out.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

27. Fool of God (6)

*Lord Jesus, in a bloody agony of fear and pain, you cast yourself in prayer
upon the Rock.*

*Help us to stay awake in prayer with those who are alone with fear and
pain.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

28. Ecce Homo (14)

*Forgive us, Lord, when we have not recognised who you are
And for the times we have claimed to know you completely!*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

29. Judas Iscariot betrayed... (26)

*How often, Lord, have we betrayed you through greed or by our
disloyalty?*

Yet your eternal Love calls us back to Life in you again.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

30. The stripping of our Lord (24)

*Naked and vulnerable, Lord,
you stand alongside victims of cruelty and indignity
Calling us to be truly human in our loving respect and care for others.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

31. Crucifixion polyptych (21)

*Lord, we find you where mothers weep and friends share pain.
In times of suffering, we lift our eyes in hope to your Cross.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

32. The Mocking of Christ (35)

*Faith is mocked and wisdom is ridiculed,
Yet the still, strong centre that is Love remains.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

33. Crucified tree-form – the agony* (25)

*Suffering Lord, you cannot escape from the agony we inflict;
Yet by your loving sacrifice we are set free to live and flourish.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

34. The Pink Crucifixion

*This is not how we expect to see you, Lord!
So how do we know that it is you?
Teach us to find you in the unexpected!*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

35. Obedient to the point of death (42)

*When all has been taken from you, Lord, Love remains.
'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.'*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

36. Love one another* (41)

*We see Jesus, our Friend, giving up everything out of love for us;
Help us to give up everything out of love for one another,
that the world may see and believe.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

37. The Crucifixion* (34)

38. The Crucifixion (44)

*The horror of the Crucifixion, Lord, is in these pictures of inhumanity.
The pain we feel as we look on them is our humanity restored.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

39. Pieta* (12)

*It is finished, Lord. Your suffering is over. Death is past.
And the prospect of life without you terrifies, for you are Life.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

40. The Deposition* (46)

*In life, there was nowhere to lay your head.
In death, we find you a tomb.*

Yet, Lord, it does not look as if this tomb will contain you!

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

EASTER AND BEYOND:

41. "Noli me tangere" "Touch me not"* (9)

*When our tears or preoccupations blind us to your presence, Lord,
Speak to us, that we might know you in your risen power.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;
Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.**

42. The Supper at Emmaus* (10)

43. Supper at Emmaus* (33)

*Help us to know that it is you, Risen Lord Jesus,
By the way you bless and share the Bread of Life with us.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

44. The Ascension* (36)

*You ascend, Risen Lord Jesus, freed from all earthly constraints,
That the flame of God's love might set fire to our hearts.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

45. Pentecost 1* (15)

*Come, Holy Spirit, suffuse our lives with your warmth and light
That our hearts may burn with love for all the world.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

46. Crucifix and candles (17)

*Lord of the Church, of crucifix and candle, of love freely given and
unending light,*

*Help us as we seek to share the Good News of your salvation for our time
and place.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

47. Our God for all people (27)

*Help us to see, Lord, that the true meaning of life
Is not to be found in what we own, but in what we share.*

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you in this picture;

Open our eyes, Lord, to see you everywhere.

Events during the Exhibition

Saturday 23 June	from 10am	First day of Exhibition
Sunday 24 June	5pm	Visible Faith Worship, in the art space
Tuesday 26 June	12.15pm	MUSIC & ART Somerville College Choir (Oxford)
Wednesday 27 June	from 12noon	Tours of the pictures by a Trustee of the collection
Thursday 28 June	7pm	Introduction to the Exhibition by Prof Lubaina Himid, Professor of Fine Art at UCLan
Friday 29 June	7.30pm	MUSIC & ART Concert with 316, Praise Band Modern Christian Music, in Student Union Atrium
Saturday 30 June	10am-3pm	Family Art Day workshops and fun for all ages in Student Union Atrium
Sunday 1 July	5pm	Visible Faith Worship, in the art space
Wednesday 4 July	12.15pm	MUSIC & ART Ripley St Thomas (Lancaster) Jazz Band
Thursday 5 July	7pm	Talk by Ghislaine Howard, artist (a work in the exhibition)
Saturday 7 July	10am-5pm	Prayer & Spirituality Day, connecting picture and prayer
Sunday 8 July	2pm-5pm	Prayer & Spirituality Day, connecting picture and prayer (in connection with Lancashire Methodist District Year of Prayer)
Sunday 8 July	5pm	Visible Faith Worship, in the art space
Wednesday 11 July	12.15pm	MUSIC & ART Concert with Musicians from Cardinal Newman College
Thursday 12 July	7.30pm	Lecture by Dr Peter Oakes (NT Lecturer, Manchester) 'Galatians for 1st Century House Churches' In conjunction with the Peake Trust and Lancashire Theological Society Exhibition open from 6.30pm for visitors.
Saturday 14 July	7.30pm	MUSIC & ART Concert at Fulwood Methodist Church Coro dell'arte, conducted by Mavis Fletcher & Marco Fanti Sacred choral music from Tudor to modern times, chosen alongside the exhibition pictures
Wednesday 18 July	12.15pm	MUSIC & ART Concert with Joseph Fourie, piano and Ben Fourie, Horn
	from 2pm	Tours of the pictures by a Trustee of the collection

O WORLD invisible, we view thee,
O world intangible, we touch thee,
O world unknowable, we know thee,
Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!

Does the fish soar to find the ocean
The eagle plunge to find the air—
That we ask of the stars in motion
If they have rumour of thee there?

Not where the wheeling systems darken,
And our benumbed conceiving soars!—
The drift of pinions, would we hearken,
Beats at our own clay-shuttered doors.

The angels keep their ancient places;—
Turn but a stone, and start a wing!
'Tis ye, 'tis your estrangèd faces,
That miss the many-splendoured thing.

But (when so sad thou canst not sadder)
Cry;—and upon thy so sore loss
Shall shine the traffic of Jacob's ladder
Pitched betwixt Heaven and Charing Cross.

Yea, in the night, my Soul, my daughter,
Cry,—clinging Heaven by the hems;
And lo, Christ walking on the water
Not of Gennesareth, but Thames!

By Francis Thompson born in Preston in 1859