

Today's artwork is *Feed My Sheep* by Nicolette Peñaranda | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*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. As a mixed media artist, I wanted to try something I've never done before—perhaps the silliest decision someone with a deadline could make.

This entire 24"x48" piece (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 every time I read this text. We refer to Jesus as both el Cordero de Dios ("the Lamb of God") 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, 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. 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 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 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 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. 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, 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.

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 14

- 11:00am: Speaking Christian Book Study
- 6:00pm: Online Worship Premiere YOUTUBE

Tuesday, April 16

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 10:30-6:00pm: National Faith & Climate Forum
- 5:00-6:00pm: Outreach Committee Mtg. (Zoom)

Thursday, April 18

- 10:00-11:00am: All-Church Social Hour (Zoom)



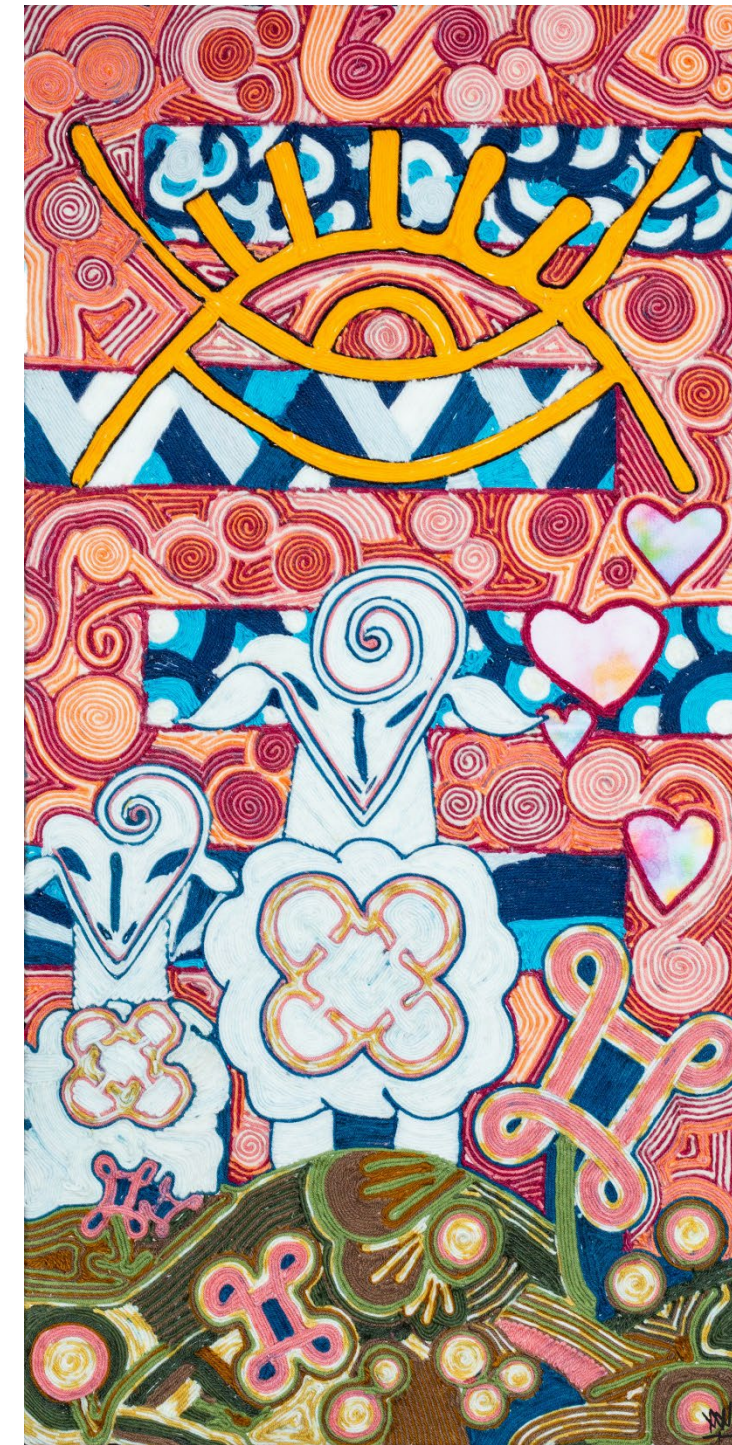
We are thrilled that you are worshiping God with us! Scan this QR code to register your attendance, submit a prayer request, and make a contribution.

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The People of Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
gather for the

## Worship of God

April 14, 2024, 9:30am: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

The Spirit of God is with you...  
**And also with you!**

Nathan A. Russell

Call to Worship  
Lift up your hearts...  
**We lift them to the Lord!**  
Nathan A. Russell

Prelude  
Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation  
"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."  
—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

Hymn of Praise  
*From North and South, From East and West*  
ELLACOMBE

From north and south, from east and west, O faith - ful peo - ple, come  
We lift our hearts, O liv - ing God, with thanks and praise to you.  
We thank you for your Word made flesh, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ,  
Pour out your Spir - it now, to bless these gifts of bread and wine,  
to share the feast that Christ pre - pares, where hea - ven and earth are one.  
Cre - a - tor of the u - ni - verse, your love makes all things new.  
whose dy - ing has de - stroyed our death, whose ris - ing gives us life.  
and let them be a feast for us, your co - ve - nant seal and sign.  
Come, all who hun - ger all who thirst; with con - fi - dence, draw near,  
"Most ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One!" the heav'n - ly choirs pro - claim.  
With grate - ful hearts we of - fer you this sac - ri - fice of praise,  
As Christ is pres - ent in this place, so may we one day be  
for Je - sus Christ, the bread of life, is tru - ly pres - ent here.  
How bles - sed is the one who comes in your most ho - ly name.  
re - mem - ber - ing your faith - ful - ness, re - joic - ing in your grace.  
u - nit - ed at your ta - ble now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Invocation  
Oliviya Earl

Hymn of Prayer 5  
*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*  
AZMON

Prayers of the People  
God who charms our fears...  
**Bid our sorrows cease.**  
Mark Mathes

The Lord's Prayer  
**Our Mother/Father/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin\*dom 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 kin\*dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.**

Sung Response 259  
*Spirit of the Living God*  
LIVING GOD

Invitation to Stewardship  
Kathy Wainwright

Offertory  
Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology  
*Praise to the Living God*  
DIADEMATA

Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, be - yond the grasp of  
hu - man mind, but whom we know as Love. In these tu - mul - tuous days, so  
full of hope and strife, may we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

The Reading  
John 21:1-19  
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
**Thanks be to God!**  
Glennis Covault

Sermon  
*Yes, Lord, You Know That I Love You*  
Glennis Covault

Discipline of Silence  
"But beware of this about callings: they may not lead us where we intended to go or even where we want to go. If we choose to follow, we may have to be willing to let go of the life we already planned and accept whatever is waiting for us. And if the calling is true, though we may not have gone where we intended, we will surely end up where we need to be."  
—Steve Goodier

Hymn of Communion 461  
*Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*  
BEACH SPRING

Invitation to Commune  
Mark Mathes

Prayer at the Table  
Nancy Walker

Words of Institution  
Mark Mathes

Invitation to Discipleship  
Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship  
*From Doorsteps to Earth's Corners*  
WASHINGTON AVENUE

Benediction and Charge  
Nathan A. Russell

Postlude  
And all the people said...  
**AMEN!**  
Sol M. Rizzato