

Drawn to Jesus



Mural Interpretive Guide

All the different elements in the mural merge together to draw people to Jesus. In our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit, signs and wonders and all the self-descriptions of Jesus in the great "I am ..." statements recorded in the gospels work together toward one goal: to draw people to Jesus. Artist Mahshid Eshtiagh has captured these in a wonderful, creative, complimentary way in the mural.

Rising Sun

- ♦ At the top left of the mural is a rising sun cresting the earth symbolizing Jesus as the light of the world (John 8:12).

The Heart

- ♦ The right half depicts grapevines alluding to Jesus as the vine (John 15:1,5). There is also a glass full of wine evoking Jesus turning water into wine, his first miracle (John 2:1-12).
- ♦ The left half portrays Jesus as the bread of life (John 6:35).

- ♦ The two sides of the heart are united by a set of praying hands representing how prayer is central to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ♦ Taken as a whole, the heart is an illustration of how believers respond to Jesus Christ through the elements of bread and wine in communion (Matthew 26:17-30).

Water and Wheat

- ♦ From the heart springs a stream of water, running down the middle of the book of life (Revelation 3:5).
- ♦ The book also symbolizes Jesus as the Word (John 1:1).
- ♦ Jesus refers to himself as the source of living water (John 4:1-26).
- ♦ The water nourishes the wheat.
- ♦ Together, the water and the wheat represent creation with God as Creator.

Cross

- ♦ A sharp contrast is made between the illuminated cross representing Jesus' resurrection and the dark blue background symbolizing his death. Light triumphs over darkness (John 11:25).

Jesus

- ♦ Jesus, the good shepherd, is carrying a staff (John 10:11-18).
- ♦ With an open hand, He is welcoming the children who are delighted to be in His presence (Luke 18: 15-17).
- ♦ The children are climbing stairs representing how Jesus raises us up out of our sinfulness into a joyful relationship with Him.
- ♦ In the background are families seeking out Jesus.

Mashid Eshtiagh is an Iranian-Canadian artist and graphic designer who obtained a bachelor's degree in graphic design in Tehran. She has displayed her work in solo exhibits in Iran and Dubai. For Mashid, the fact that the mural communicates a clear Christian message is important.