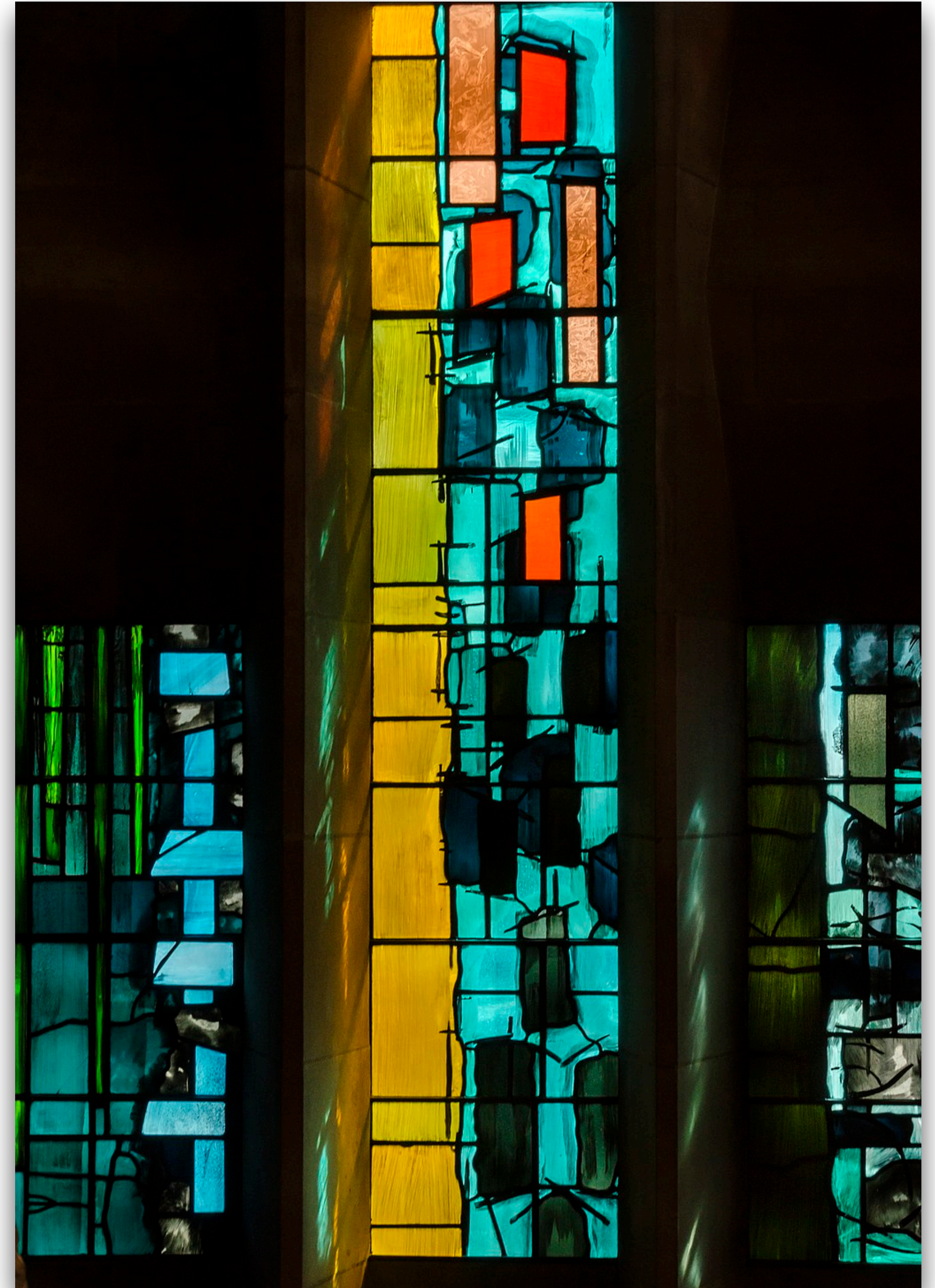


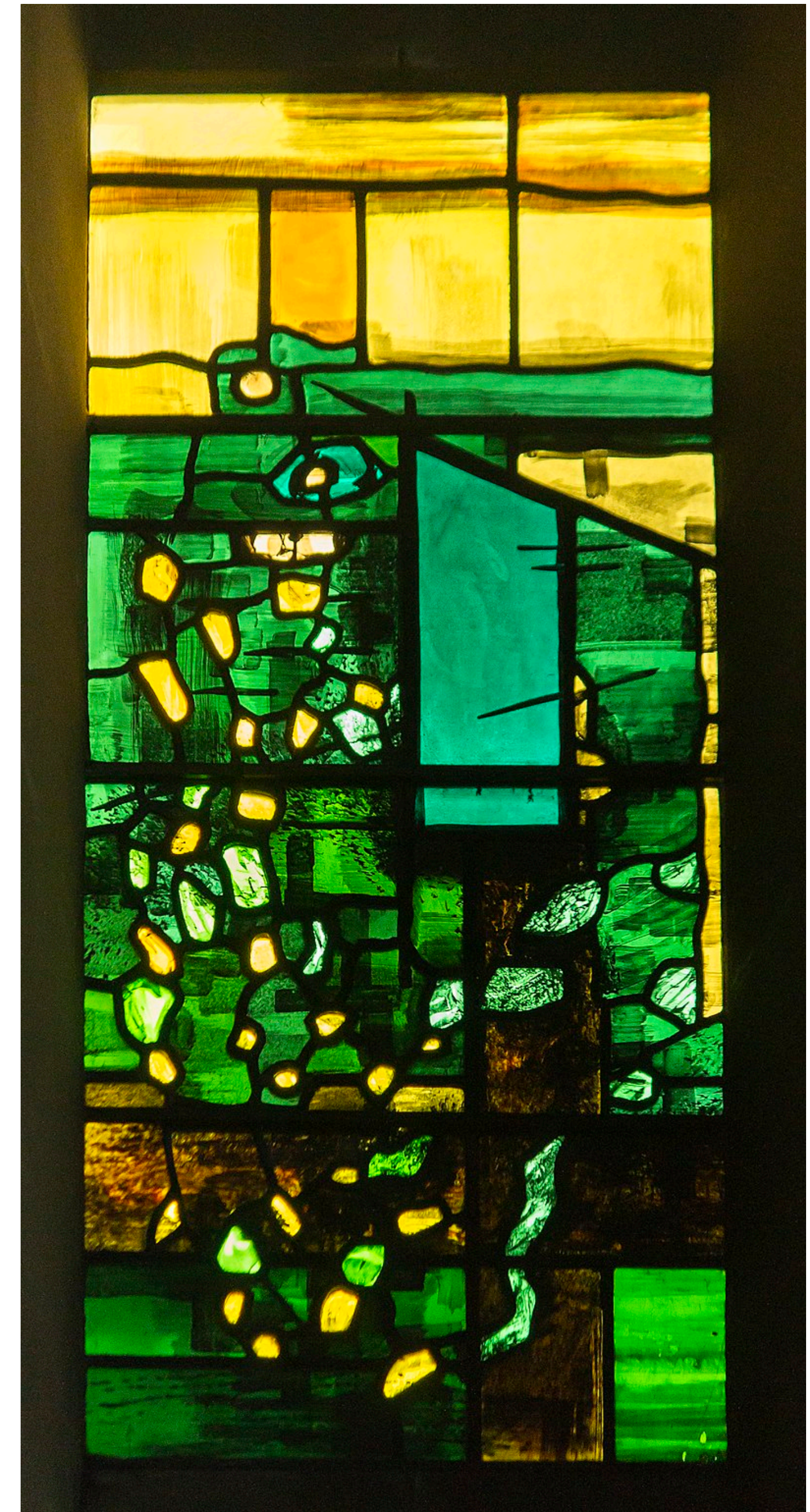
# Journey with Jesus

Praying through the Gospel of John

Week 11

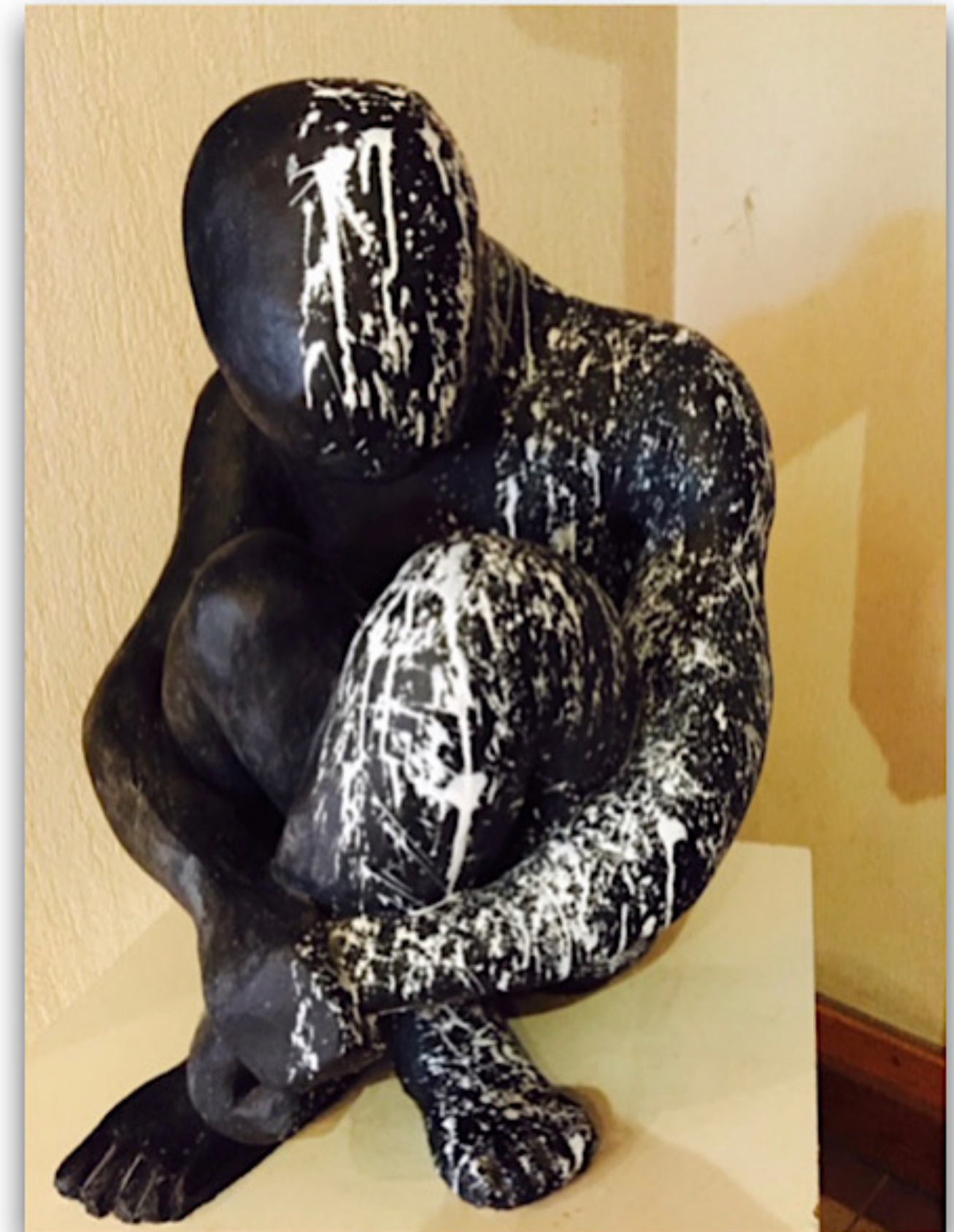


- Find a place to sit quietly.
- Sit in a relaxed position and close your eyes.
- Breathe normally and become aware the presence of God.
- John tells us ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’
- What does fullness of life feel like for you?
  - Where would you like to experience increasing fullness of life?
  - Where would you like to see increasing fullness of life in the world?
  - You might like to listen to Harpa Dei sing Q Pastor.
  - You might like to listen to Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony here or to Wheaton College Women’s Choir sing Sheep may safely graze.



➤ You might like to listen to:

- Day 1: I have decided to follow Jesus sung by Jadon Lavie then click [here](#).
- Day 2: Dead Man Walking sung by Jeremy Camp and friends then click [here](#).
- Day 3: Washed Away sung by Michael Smith then click [here](#).
- Day 4: Living hope sung by Phil Wickham then click [here](#).
- Day 5: The Lord is my Shepherd sung by Keith Green then click [here](#).
- Day 6: Fullness sung by Elevation Worship then click [here](#).
- Day 7: This is amazing grace sung by Bright City then click [here](#).



# Day 1: John 9:16-23

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

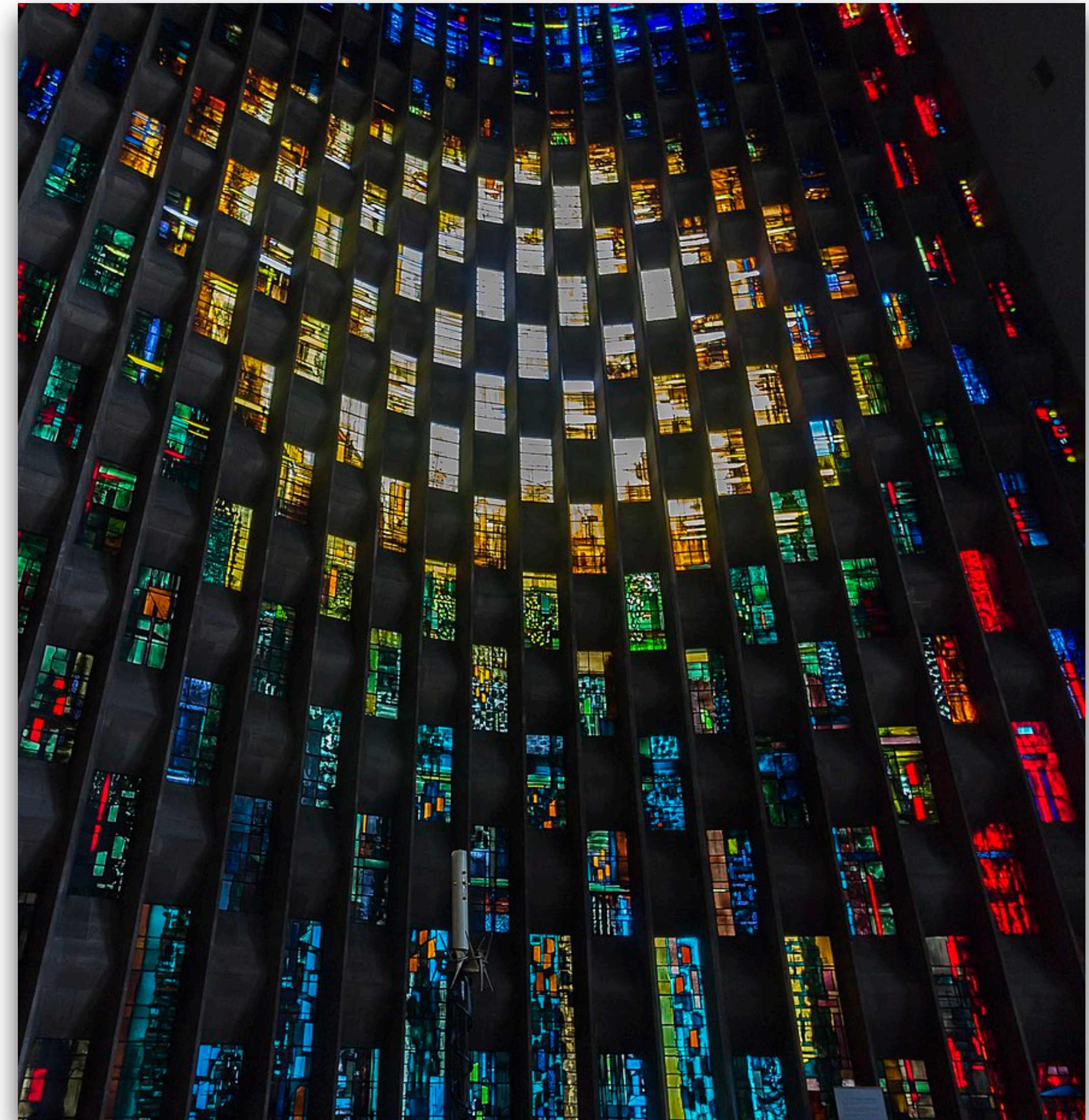
- Read this passage from John 9.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click [here](#) to continue.



# Day 2: John 9:24-27

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

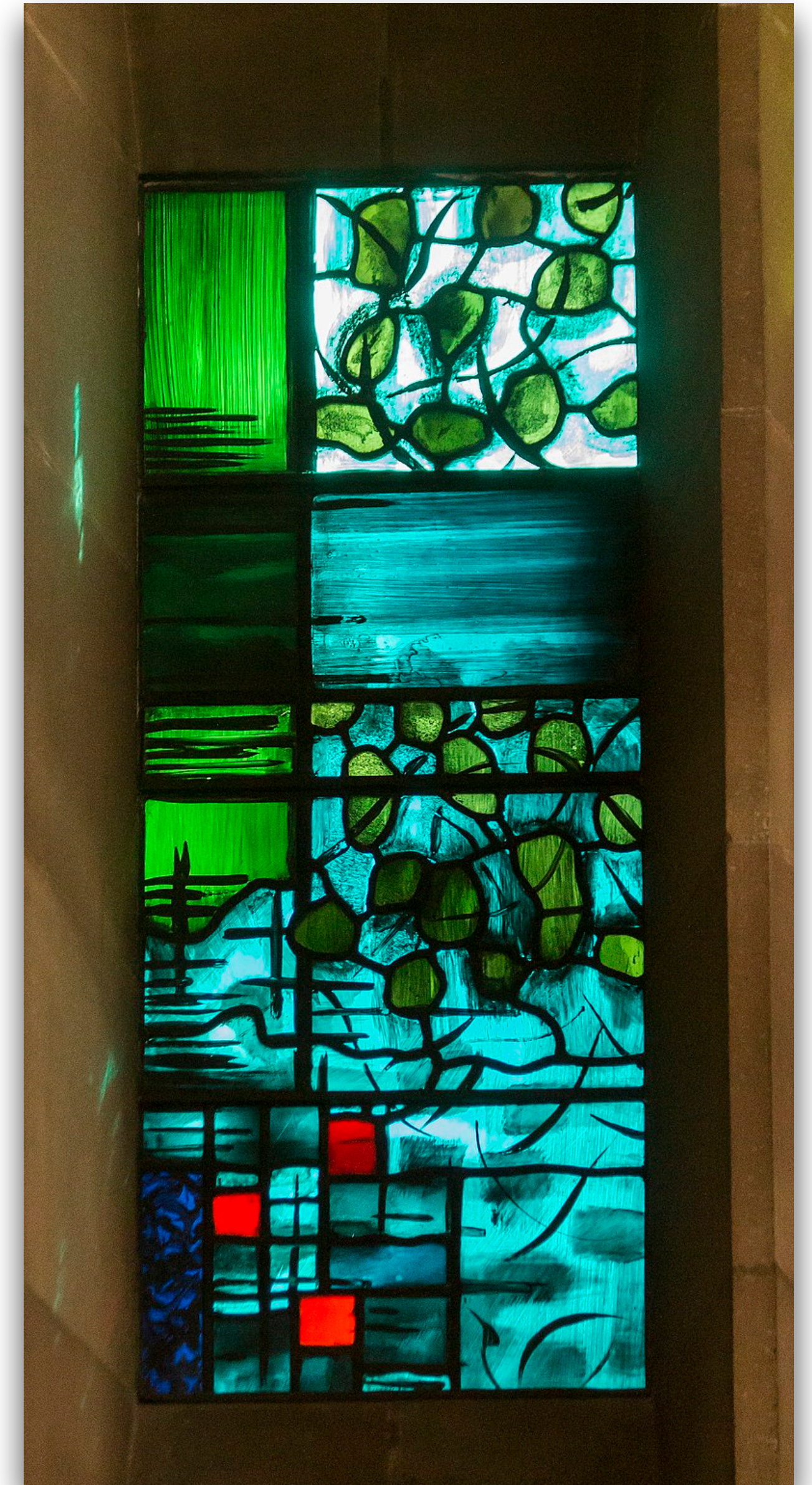
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# Day 3: John 9:28-34

Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

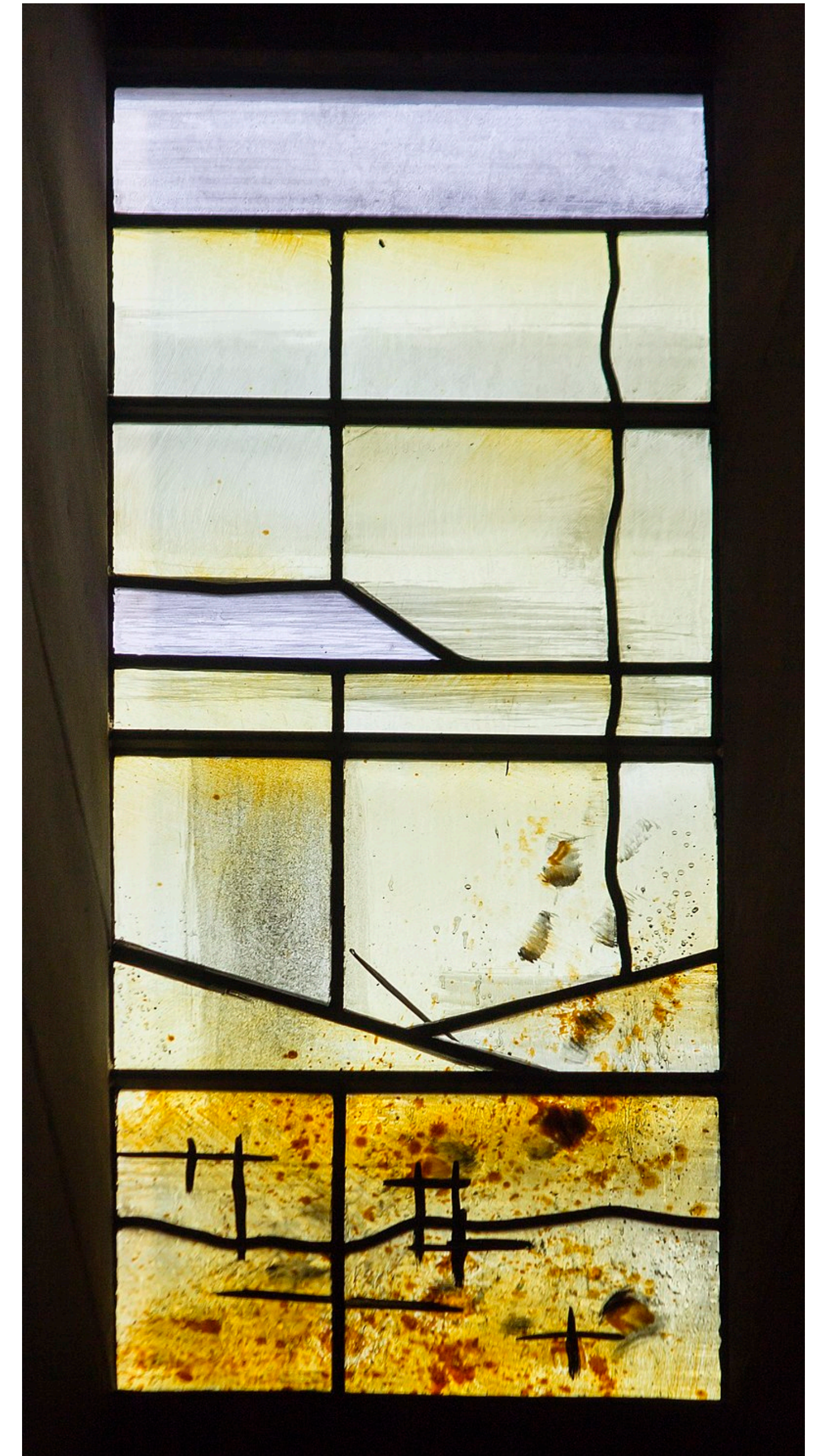
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# Day 4: John 9:35-41

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

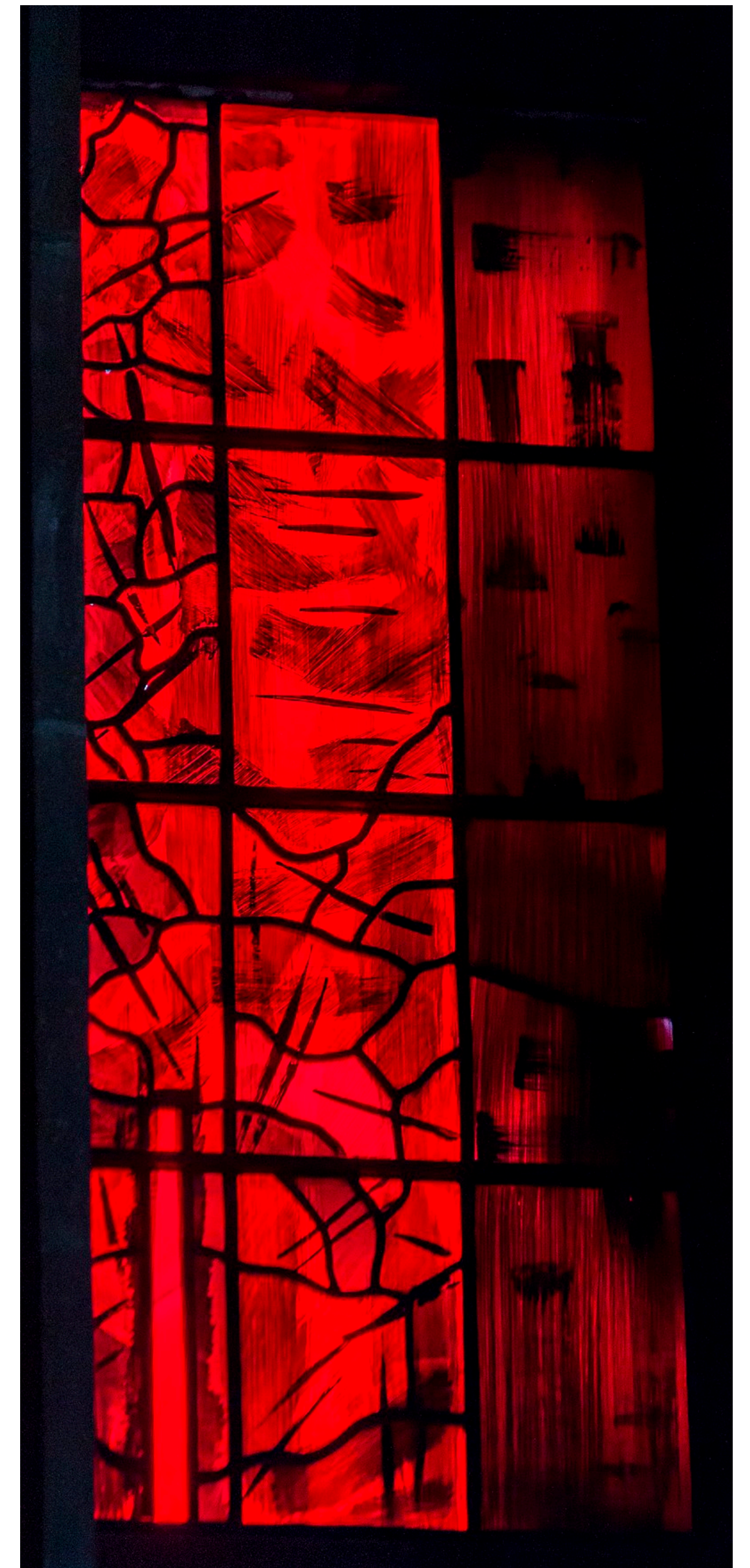
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# Day 5: John 10:1-6

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

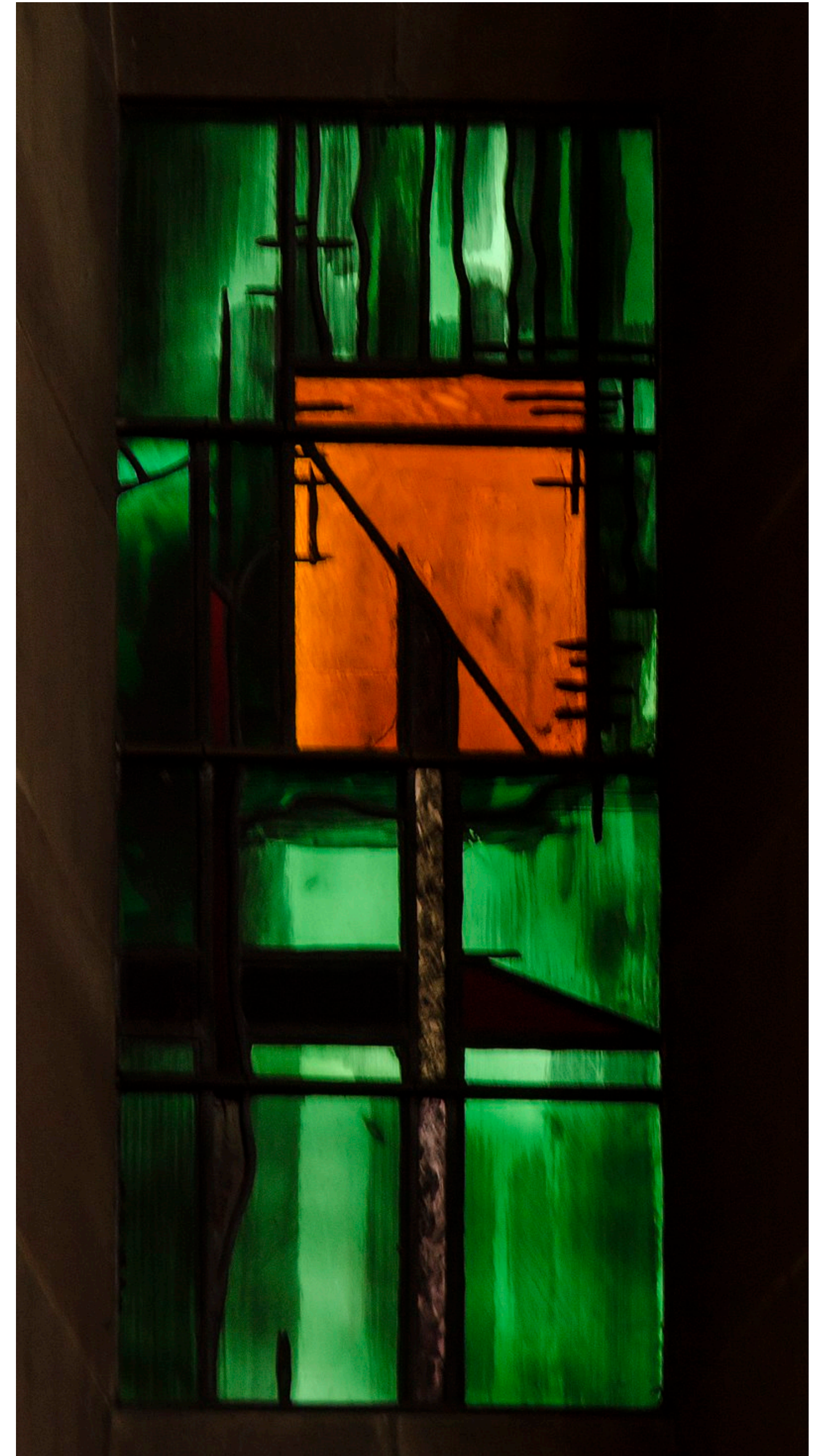
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# Day 6: John 10:7-10

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

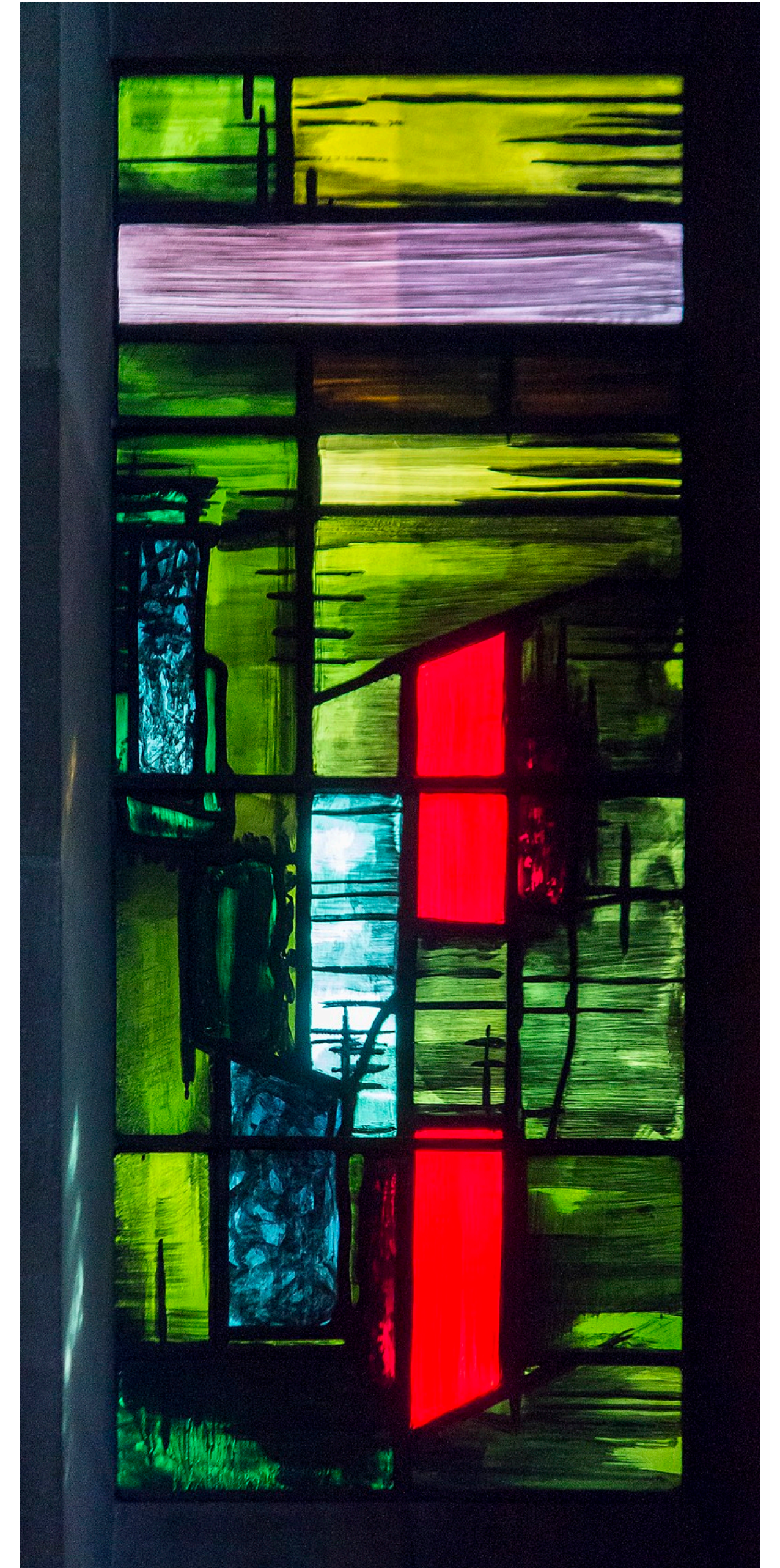
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# Day 7: John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

- Read this passage from John 10.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
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➤ Over the week you might like to listen to Jon Guerra sing the following songs, a number taken from his album **Glass**.

➤ Day 1: I will follow

➤ Day 2: Stained Glass

➤ Day 3: Wherever you are

➤ Day 4: Enough for me

➤ Day 5: Keeper of days

➤ Day 6: Come thou fount

➤ Day 7: Give me Jesus



# Creative prayer

Throughout this week we have been praying with images of stained glass windows made by John Piper

Wax resist painting can give you images that have echoes of stained glass.

To do this you need paper, and old candle and some paints.

You might like to look at the guide as to how to do this [here](#).

Maybe spend some time creating an image that has come out of your prayer time using the wax resist technique.

You might then like to add layers in different media, for example acrylic or collage.

Further guidance and images from a creative arts retreat in 2018 run by Wendy Oldershaw and Alison Wickstead based on the work of John Piper can be seen on this and the next three slides. These have been used with permission. The images and guidance are used under Fair Use.





John used mixed media, inks, chalks, oil pastels, rollers of flat colour. Just look at this black and white study, where he plays with architectural details and scribbles. Here contrast is the idea he is playing with.

And contrast it with this work where he has enlivened his drawing with pastel blocks of colour, and then added glimpses of the details of the building



## Wax resist

One way you can enrich work is to use a wax crayon or a candle to draw your design. Then, using a water colour or thin acrylic wash, you can paint over your design.

The drawing resists the paint and adds to the lively effect.

### Adding text

Often John Piper added texts that were significant to his work.

You have an example of added text in Wendy Oldershaw's painting

In this pack.

### Frottage

Another way to enrich work is to take a rubbing over an embossed area in Church. Here is an example of using the text on graves. It is an easy and enjoyable way of getting

## Texture



This is something that can be added to with other mixed media to make it lively.



Bright  
Colours

Blocks  
of colour

Abstract  
shapes

Wax resist  
techniques

use of a  
grid design

This painting shows the same use of a grid to work inside. John uses bold blocks of colour and adds to them scribbles, and dots, and splashes of colour. He has used wax resist on the halo and elsewhere. Everything is fluid, and loosely drawn. The way colour talks to colour is really important to him. The whole effect is almost abstract, but much thought has gone into the design.



Again John chose a window as another basic background shape.

Then some colours to suggest water and earth and sky.

Then he added fishes, trees and plants, and butterflies.

## Collage

There is no need for detail in the window shape.

He has really enjoyed the colours of the three background elements and the free and simple shapes of the creatures.

Let your ideas flow . A background shape, like a building , or part of a building , can be used for your own ideas , as a frame to put your ideas inside.

You could use cut outs and create your mixed coloured effects on other sheets, then use glue to stick them on. John used collage frequently .



Look carefully at this painting. There is newspaper used as a cliff and shapes from other publications added.

Also it is likely that Piper used cut outs of his paintings to enrich this work.



He has used **shading scribbles** to show light and dark , but not everywhere

Look how he handles colour. Simple red window, Basic shapes to show details.

This is a sketch of part of a Church, but only just enough to make an interesting set of shapes to add other ideas

## Scribbling Simplifying adding colour

Why has he used the blue shapes at the bottom of the picture? It would be less interesting if the blue was not there!

Some John Piper techniques

## how to layer a picture

Using a **grid design** such as the structure of a window frame to put his design inside.



John was influenced by medieval stained glass. Here he has copied images from sculpture in cathedrals and from his imagination, but very sketchily. Then he has drawn them over loosely coloured painted grounds, within the grid

**This gives a feeling of vitality and movement.**

If you were to experiment with colours in acrylic, crayons and water colour  
Then you could cut shapes to paste into your grid as background to your foreground images.

Layers = **GRID– SHAPES– FOREGROUND**

We are like windows  
Stained with colors of the rainbow  
Set in a darkened room  
Till the bridegroom comes to shining through

Then the colors fall around our feet  
Over those we meet  
Covering all the gray that we see  
Rainbow colors of assorted hues  
Come exchange your blues  
For His love that you see shining through me

We are His daughters and sons  
We are the colorful ones  
We are the kids of the King  
Rejoice in everything

My colors grow so dim  
When I start to fall away from Him  
But up comes the strongest wind  
That he sends to blow me back into his arms again

And then the colors fall around my feet  
Over those I meet  
Changing all the gray that I see  
Rainbow colors of the Risen Son  
Reflect the One  
The One who came to set us all free

We are His daughters and sons  
We are the colorful ones  
We are the kids of the King  
Rejoice in everything

We are like windows  
Stained with colors of the rainbow  
No longer set in a darkened room  
Cause the bridegroom wants to shine from you

No longer set in a darkened room  
Cause the bridegroom wants to shine from you

You might like to listen to Keith Green sing Stained Glass.  
The words for this can be found on the right of the slide.

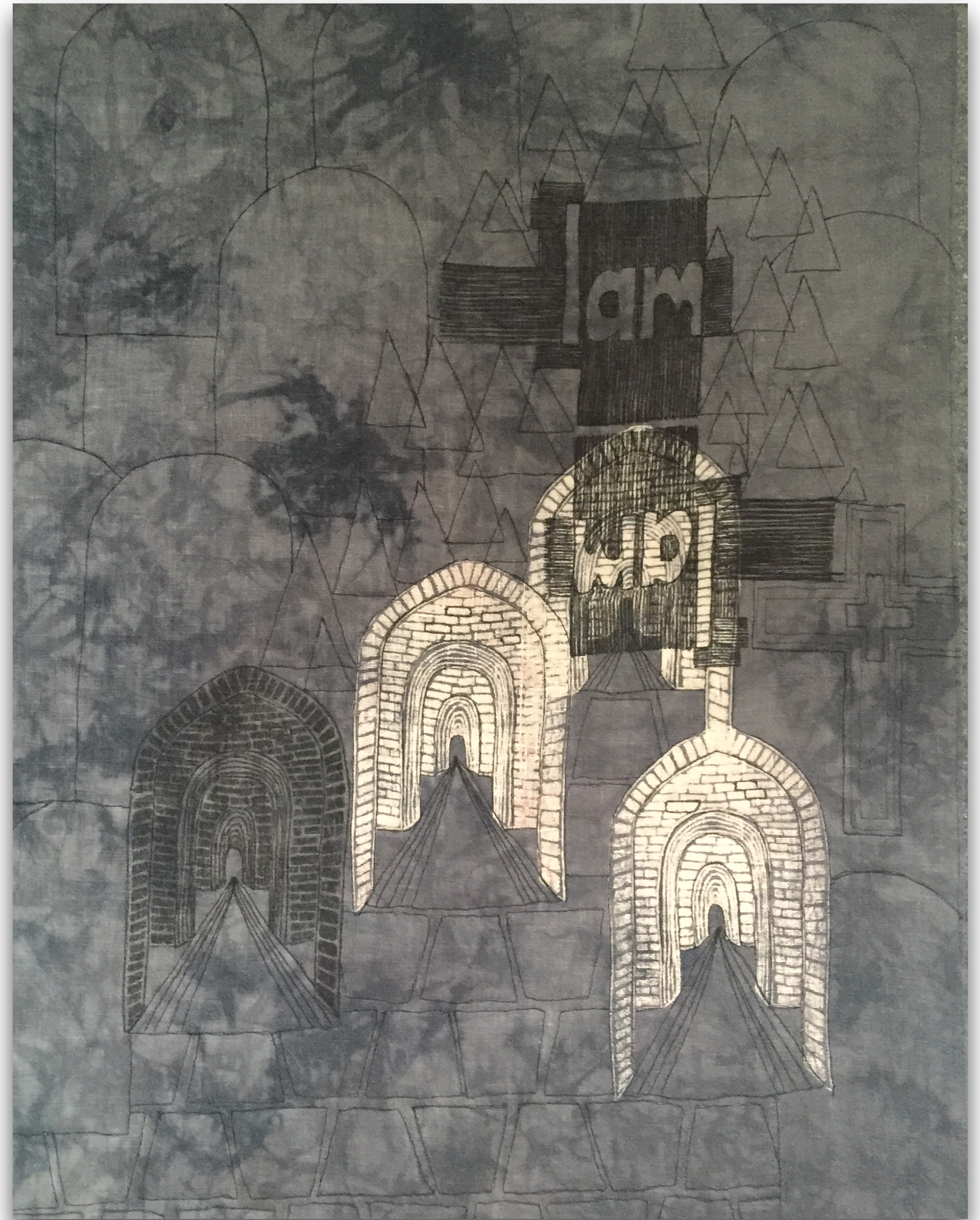
## 'I Am The Door Of The Sheepfold'

Not one that's gently hinged or deftly hung,  
Not like the ones you planed at Joseph's place,  
Not like the well-oiled openings that swung  
So easily for Pilate's practiced pace,  
Not like the ones that closed in Mary's face  
From house to house in brimming Bethlehem,  
Not like the one that no man may assail,  
The dreadful curtain, The forbidding veil  
That waits your breaking in Jerusalem.

Not one you made but one you have become:  
Load-bearing, balancing, a weighted beam  
To bridge the gap, to bring us within reach  
Of your high pasture. Calling us by name,  
You lay your body down across the breach,  
Yourself the door that opens into home.

Malcolm Guite - used with permission

[Click on the title of this sonnet to listen to the author read these words.](#)



Textile art by Jane Allan. Used with permission.

# Journey with Jesus

Praying through the Gospel of John

***Week 11***

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This prayer station and other resources can be found at [The Prayer Room](#)

