

Christian Tapestry 2007



Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be known as
the Children of God.

But I say to you that hear,
love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who abuse you.
To those that strike you on the cheek,
offer the other one also,
and from those who take away your cloak,
do not withhold your coat as well.
Give to everyone who begs from you,
and of those who take away your worldly goods,
do not ask for them again.
And as you wish that others would do to you,
do so to them.



This, the Christian Tapestry, was the most challenging of our faith tapestries to date to design. From Jesus, Savior of mankind, to Jesus as teacher covers a wide gulf. As the religion of Christianity moved farther from the time and teachings of Jesus, the tenets of Christianity become mixed with common culture and legend. Some forms of Christianity welcome and embrace others' beliefs, and others are convinced they are the sole way of salvation. We deliberately decided to go back to Christianity's beginnings, constantly asking ourselves about the origin beliefs, the teachings of Jesus.

The earliest Christians did not use the symbol of the cross, but in our current era it is the most recognized emblem of Christianity. We chose to allow the cross to split and open and expand, depicting it as a doorway deeper into the mysteries of Spirit, while still remaining as the recognizable shape the world is familiar with.

The dogwood vine in flower flowing up the center, symbolizes the living and changing nature of this spiritual path. A lovely Irish myth: the Crucifixion cross was made of dogwood. The tree, so ashamed of the use to which it was put, begged God never to be used in such a way again. God answered by transforming it into something spindly and twisted, so that its wood could never such be used, yet gave it also beautiful cross-shaped flowers. We found so many stories and myths and legends intertwined in our study of Christianity that it seemed fitting to choose a specific type of plant, to represent all of the folk tales and stories.

An ascending, or descending, dove is at the center of the cross. Whether the dove is flying towards or away from you is your decision. Rising behind and through the middle of the tapestry is a rush of flames, representing the Holy Spirit awakening the light of a living faith.

The backdrop is a stained glass window. We wished to suggest the deeply rooted architectural traditions which have grown up around the religion (or religions) of Christianity, as opposed to the simple teachings of Jesus. The incredible beauty of many Christian churches form a part of the weight of tradition and structure these spiritual communities offer throughout the world.

We hung four beaded tassels from the four rods of this tapestry. We wished to specifically honor also the Eastern and Eastern Orthodox families of Christianity, so different than our more familiar western Christianity traditions, yet equally and indisputably "Christian".

We consecrate this Christian tapestry for all of the world's Christians, whom we honor as they follow their individual paths. The uniting and underlying truth in all of Christendom is the love and reverence for the leader, the founder, Jesus of Nazareth, and the wondrous teachings he gave so lovingly.