

St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
Theology for Life

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# Beautiful Savior:

*Encountering Christ Through The Arts*

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# Creation

*The heavens are telling  
the glory of God.*

Psalm 19:1

Rho Ophiuchi–Star Birth

Credits: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI,

Klaus Pontoppidan





## *The Garden of Eden*

Late 16th century, British  
velvet, polychrome silk, metal threads

The Metropolitan Museum of Art



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The Lord spoke to Moses, “See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and

*I have filled him with the spirit of God,  
with ability, intelligence, and knowledge,  
and every kind of skill,*

to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every kind of craft.”

# The Tabernacle: Ark of the Covenant



Scale model of Ark of the Covenant Glencairn Museum

The Ark of the Covenant was situated in the Tabernacle's **Holy of Holies**

Contained the **Ten Commandment** tablets

Covered by the **Mercy Seat** with cherubim facing one another, overshadowing the ark with their wings

# Solomon's Temple



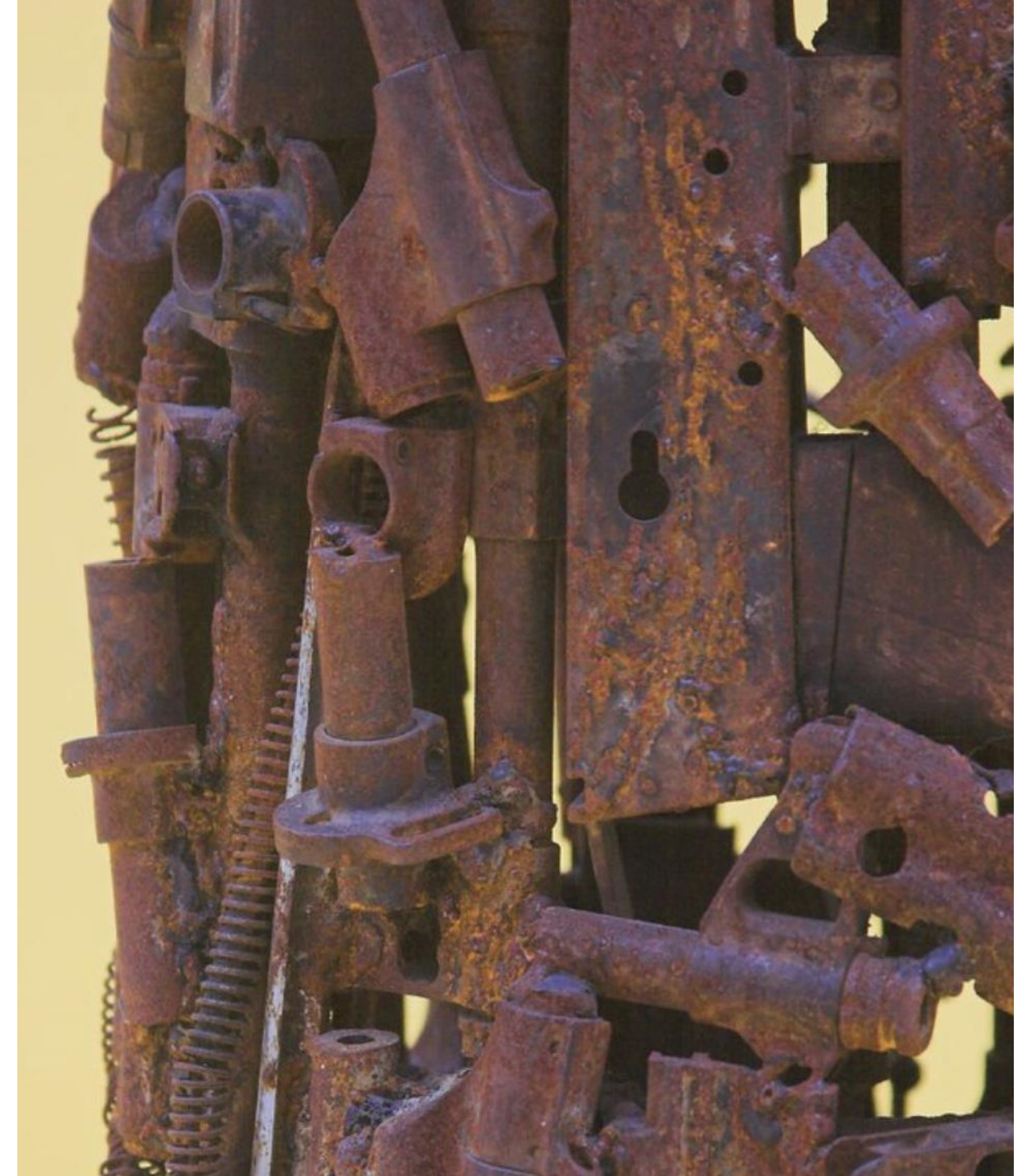
Architectural models after a design by Thomas Newberry, carved and gilded by Messrs. Bartlet, King Street, London, 1883

Metropolitan Museum of Art collection





# *Baptizing Our Imagination*



## *Tree of Life*

*commissioned by The British Museum  
Cristóvão Estevão Canhavato (Kester),  
Hilario Nhatugueja, Fiel dos Santos,  
and Adelino Serafim Maté*





*New Creation*

*The Word became flesh  
and lived among us,  
and we gazed upon his glory.*

John 1:14





# *Unveiled Mercy*

Joy Hilley Art  
2024, mixed media



Art that is holy does not have to have a utilitarian purpose.

*It is enough that it draws us into the mystery and holiness of God.*

*It is enough that its beauty calls out to us to consider and meditate on the beauty of the One who calls us his beloved.*

*It is enough that it joins purpose with the Holy One in the act of creation.*

*It is enough that it restores, bit by bit, the beauty marred by sin and destruction.*

Art that is holy and sacred is enough.

## ✠ Read the Psalms.

*Meditate on them. Memorize them.*

*Read from various translations.*

## ✠ Read the Gospels.

*Pay particular attention to the parables of Jesus.*

*Look for “kingdom” and “new creation” language.*

## ✠ Seek beauty.

*Allow the Spirit to guide you.*

*Be intentional, using all your senses.*



## *The Tree of Life*

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## *The cover crucifix photo*

is the work product of Joy Hilley Art,  
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