

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Baptism of Our Lord — January 7, 2024

“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”

– Genesis 1:3 –

Katheryn Davis was an impressionistic artist who used multimedia in a way that enhanced light, color, and shape rather than details. Art was her way of exploring the world and understanding her place in it and some of her work was based on biblical stories. Her most famous work is a series of paintings called “The Seven Days of Creation.” She represented each day with color, shape, and texture using watercolor, pastel, metallic paint, and collage medium. The paintings show Katheryn’s image of the creation story, from her point of view and her creative mind.

We would all probably find a different way of representing the seven days of creation, perhaps including more details or defining the aspects of each day more clearly. In her series, the fifth day is the most obvious; the birds and fish are subtle but present on the canvas. The most difficult to recognize is the first day, but that’s probably the hardest of all to capture. After all, how do you represent “a formless void” and “Day and Night” on canvas? How do you take common earthly elements to portray the incredible thing God did on that first day?

It might not be possible for human beings to recreate God’s work of creation, but the formless void in Genesis is like an empty canvas. Like an artist, God had a vision; His vision sprang into life when He spoke, beginning with the spiritual foundation of our lives. He separated the light from the dark. The light which He called “Day,” is love, mercy, hope, grace, joy, generosity, justice, and all things good. The dark, the Night, is the absence of those good things. In the midst of all this was Christ, the Word; through Him all things were made. God brought His imagination to life; His vision for that formless void was created with just a word, His Word.

Today we celebrate the baptism of our Lord Jesus. God spoke at His baptism as He came out of the water; at that moment He once again divided light from darkness. He spoke hope into the world. He named Jesus His Son the Beloved and in Him we see the true Light revealed in His life, ministry, death, and resurrection that would overcome darkness forever. At that moment, the One who was with God in the beginning was empowered to fulfill all God’s promises to His people.

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