

Price List

Bradford Cathedral

Encounters with Jesus

Paintings by Alison Thistlethwaite

February 26th - June 12th 2020

Paintings are listed alphabetically

Abiding in love *Acrylic on canvas 54 x 44 ins, 137 x 112 cm*

For three years, Jesus' followers lived with him and enjoyed daily access to his love, wisdom and teaching. When he was about to die, he told them how to relate to him after his resurrection. Through the Spirit they would continue to live 'with him', not physically as they were used to, but 'in him' and he 'in them' (John 14 -15). As this painting was made, the different colours and shapes seemed to belong with each other, and gave a sense of our being surrounded by the love and promises of God, and of really belonging to him.



Amazing Joy *Acrylic on canvas, 23½ x 27½ ins, 60 x 70 cm*

This is a breakthrough painting, about God breaking through to us. When God wanted to announce his Son's birth, he came to shepherds, a group of people who were not too busy to listen nor too proud to be interested. They may have been overlooked socially; but they knew, as everyone can know, that they were important to God. Imagine being entrusted with God's great message of hope for the world. Imagine yourself one of the very first to know about Jesus. Imagine being the first people ever to hear the heavenly choir, and to see heaven on earth. Imagine the joy as your darkness turns, in a second, to brightest light.

£1700



£400

Deep Calls to Deep *Acrylic on canvas 23½ x 27½ ins, 60 x 70 cm*

'Deep calls to deep' is a mysterious phrase from Psalm 42 that has no literal meaning, but suggests the way our heart-longings, the hidden depth than no one else can see, are satisfied in God. Often we find that God 'talks our language', he arranges things for us that only we would appreciate, he marks our individual way with noticeable signs. This painting signified God's voice, coming personally, in the depth of life.



£550



£250

Fly again *Acrylic on canvas, 17 ¾ x 14 ins, 45 x 35cm*

Areas of great brokenness in our lives can lead to areas of great confidence. But confident strides start for us with tentative steps. We know we can walk, as we start to walk. God commands us to 'take up our mat and walk'; his voice empowers us to do the walking. Confidence in God is the answer to fear, timidity and lack of confidence. This painting was a new beginning after a season of withdrawal.



£1200

Freedom *Acrylic on canvas 3 x 4 feet, 91.5 x 122 cm*

What is the freedom we actually want? Clearly not the freedom to do stupid things or to hurt people. No, the freedom we crave is the freedom to love without fear, to be released from dread so that we can act, and to worship without fear of disapproval. When we have been 'under' one trouble or another, the truth we need to hear is our God 'saying to the prisoners, "Come out"' (Isaiah 49: 9).



£750

From Ashes to Beauty *oil on canvas 47 x 39½ ins, 120 x 100 cm*

When Jesus spoke in his home town Nazareth, he identified himself with a famous prophecy in the Book of Isaiah. 'The Lord has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken hearted...' Isaiah continues the prophecy with a promise that those that mourn will not just be comforted. The ashes on their heads, a public symbol of grief, will be replaced with 'a crown of beauty' (Isaiah 61: 3). God's desire is not just to restore, but to make things better.



£700

Gateway of Hope *Acrylic on canvas 23½ x 27½ ins, 60 x 70 cm*

Suffering is something our modern world has little space for. It is there to be fixed, to be eliminated. Until that happens we are embarrassed by suffering and want to push it away. But we know it is present, in every life. Is it just a terrible mistake, to be polished out, like traces of dirt in our shiny new buildings? In the Bible, suffering is there: every character suffers, and the oldest narrative in it, that of Job, says almost as much as can be said. But the Bible also shows that suffering is not the end. It is not good, but can be transformed. The prophet Hosea gives this summary: 'I will transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope' (2: 15). Hope transforms suffering. It gives a gateway through which we can look. Jesus, 'for the joy set before him, endured the Cross' (Hebrews 12: 2).

He is calling your name *Acrylic on canvas, 20 x 16 ins, 51 x 41 cm*

Yes, it is you he's calling, not the person you are thinking about. It is your name that is on his lips. When, at the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus was confronted with a dead body, He called his friend by name: 'Lazarus, come out!' There is nothing like the call of Jesus to tell us that we are whole, we are wanted, we have been shaped for a purpose. Think of all the people in the Bible that Jesus calls by name. When He calls our name, He calls us to life, and only we can answer. This painting is about the individuality of His call.



£260

In His Presence *Acrylic on canvas 59 x 47 ins, 150 x 120 cm*

The path to restoration can be long, but when we get there hope is restored. 'In His presence is fullness of joy' (Psalm 16: 11).



£1750

Joyful freedom 2019 *Acrylic on canvas 39½ x 47 ins, 100 x 120 cm*

Freedom is not just a removal of restrictions; it is a condition of the heart to be received with joy, giving the ability to move out and on. Song is the main way we express gratitude to God, because song is itself a free thing, in which our whole being is involved, drawn into the life of God as we encounter him. How amazing it is to discover that God also 'sings' over us. The prophet Zephaniah, speaking to Israel, gave a message of comfort that can also apply to us: 'For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs' (Zeph. 3: 17).



£950

Knowing who He was

Acrylic on canvas 19¾ x 15¾ ins, 50 x 40 cms (November 7th 2019)

St John's gospel tells us that Jesus, knowing that he came from God, took a towel and washed His disciples feet (John 13: 3-4) He could take the humblest job and not be diminished by it, because He knew that though He came 'as a servant' He was also the eternal Son of God. Throughout His life He had to live with the difference between who He knew himself to be and what He was accused of being. We too need to learn to be who we are in God's love, and enjoy living in the world, whatever anyone thinks or says.



£350



£700

Let the light come *Oil on canvas, 3 x 4 feet, 91.5 x 122 cm*

Sunshine, in our climate, seems to have a love-affair with nature. One moment all is dismal and grey, the next it's all glory! Who can describe the way the buds and leaves dance, the tree trunks are splashed with gold, and the birds lift their voices to say 'all is well'? When Jesus called himself 'Light of the world', it is not just a light that exposes things. His light is the kind that awakens everything, like the dawn, to a new day where it can discover its own nature, and see it loved into life. This painting (believe it or not) arose in sad circumstances when trust was weakened. But focus on the light transformed it, to a fresh discovery of healing.



£750

Liberty *Acrylic on canvas 4 x 3 feet, 122 x 91.5 cm*

Forgiving others is sometimes so challenging. Asking forgiveness for ourselves might be easier. But the truth is that forgiveness is liberation. Even if we have to forgive many times, it opens the door to a life without resentment or guilt.



£750

Living Water *Acrylic on canvas, 4 x 3 feet, 122 x 91.5 cm 2019*

Jesus promised 'living water' to a Samaritan woman, who was only thinking about well-water. This is like us, who seldom lift our eyes above the practical needs of our day. But Jesus knew that our hearts need something more sustaining than anything we can fetch with a bucket. 'Living water' (as opposed to standing water) is water that keeps on flowing. The Holy Spirit, whom God promised to us, is like that: he never runs dry and is always there for us. This painting expresses the power and endless presence of the life-giving Holy Spirit.



£750

My daughter *Acrylic on canvas with metal leaf, 23½ x 27½ ins, 60 x 70 cm*

Jesus was on his way to a sick girl. He was surrounded by crowds. If you wanted to get close, you had to push. A woman did, touched his clothes, and was healed. 'My daughter, your faith has made you well', Jesus said. If we want to meet with God, there is no alternative but to push through, and sometimes against, the crowd. Our friends, neighbours and work colleagues are busy with other things. They do not know where our heart is set. They often cannot see our pain and our need. Like the woman, we have to decide for ourselves that we will press through, and make our way to Jesus. Our faith will be rewarded.

One with us *Acrylic on canvas 59 x 47 ins, 150 x 120 cm*

There may be turmoil in the earth, but when it began it was beautiful. Everything God made was good. There may be turmoil within ourselves, but, we were created good too. We long to be reunited with that goodness. The mystery is that into all this turmoil, outer and inner, Jesus came. He attached himself to our very own human nature, He knows what is it like in our skin. He knows at first hand what sin is like, not from doing it, but from living in a body like ours, knowing our temptations. He walked the lonely road to the cross so that all our sin could be taken away.



£1800

Redeemed *Acrylic on canvas, 27½ x 23½ ins, 70 x 60 cm*

When we look at the world, there is obviously a problem. There is so much goodness: yet evil, instead of submitting, tries to take advantage of it and establish its own rule. But the human solution to our problem is almost comically inadequate – a bit more politics, a bit more money, a bit more war. It needs a deeper solution.

In ancient Israel, over the centuries, the desire was formed for a 'proper ruler', not just someone like Israel's kings, who could hold their ground for a short time with the sword, but a true ruler, whom the prophets call Messiah. Messiah can deal with evil, not just at a human, but at a cosmic level. Messiah can establish the rule of good so that it will never end. Messiah will bring justice for all who have been wronged, restore what has been taken. When Jesus broke free from death his disciples realised that this new rule had begun. Sin could be eliminated by forgiveness. Sicknesses could be healed. Lives, and whole communities, could be straightened out. This is just the foretaste of what life will be like when Messiah returns. This painting looks forward to the complete reign of God.



£400

Remain in My Love *Acrylic on canvas 23½ x 19¾ ins, 60 x 50 cm*

'We love God because he first loved us', says St John. We love God when we find that his love for us is there already. This painting is about the 'abiding', 'remaining' or 'indwelling' in the love that Jesus knew so well with his Father, and asks us to discover.



£350



Responding in Worship *Acrylic and Oil paint on canvas, 5 x 4 feet, 152.5 x 122 cm*

One of the most well-known Psalms, Psalm 84, speaks of pilgrims who travel through a Place of Weeping, which becomes for them a place of 'refreshing springs'. The Psalm speaks of God's ability to make our places of deepest suffering or shame a source of fresh life. On the Cross, Jesus was put in the place of deepest shame, and through it carried our shame, clean away. The burden of what we were is lifted off us. Now we can start to live in who we are, vibrant, in touch with God, and full of joy. We worship Him.

£1800



Resurrection Hope *Acrylic on canvas, 5 x 4 feet, 152.5 x 122 cm*

Hope is on the winning side. Until the resurrection, we did not know this. There is the account, in Luke's gospel, of two unhappy disciples trudging home from Jerusalem after the death and burial of Jesus, all their hopes dashed. A stranger drew near them and heard out their story. 'We had hoped...', they said, but death had put a stop to that. 'But no', the stranger told them. 'This is just what was supposed to happen. It is not the end of the story'. They told him there was a rumour that the body was gone and that Jesus had been seen alive. And then they realised that he actually was alive, and speaking with them. Hope returned, and now it was a person. The new world could not be stopped by a cross. The cross was its gateway.

£1800



Resurrection Joy *Oil on canvas, 55 x 67 ins, 140 x 170 cm*

The Resurrection of Christ is a truth that changes every part of every day. It is not like a 'fact' that one can park with other interesting facts of history. It is an event in our lives, that changes our possibilities. Jesus is alive. He is working from heaven. This painting is about the impact of the Resurrection, the fact that it floods everything with hope. It is painted in gratitude that, instead of being dogged by our past, every day we can start at the beginning.

£2500

The Healing of Hearts *Acrylic on canvas, 3 x 2 feet, 91.5 x 61cm*

This is a painting about men. It began as a painting about the 'Stiff Upper Lip', the men who don't or can't cry. Then it became a painting about Christ, the man who died for all men, who embraced manhood and became the man men want to be: fearless and forthright, gentle and sacrificial, open in emotions, but humble and self-controlled. We have heard too much today about what men are not. When we look at Christ, we see what they can be, and in fact, often are.



£500

The Healing Painting

Acrylic on canvas 47 x 59 ins, 120 x 150 cm. March to November 2019

We go to the doctor to get healed. Yet the doctor cannot heal our nation, which we are part of, or our afflicted environment. But all this is part of our sickness. We are not separate from the world we live in or the communities we belong to. But Jesus, who healed the sick, also heals the nations. 'The leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations' (Revelation 22). The healing of those among whom we live is also healing for us. Jesus is 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords'. The nations and our communities are his concern. This painting is about the spreading of his healing throughout the nations.



£1450

The Storm *Acrylic on canvas 31½ x 39½ ins, 80 x 100 cm, 2020*

The storms of life are inevitable. It is easy to panic. Jesus was in a storm with his disciples, who thought they would drown. Jesus rebuked the wind and it died down (Matthew 8: 24). This painting is about the One who is not just in the storms with us, but is able to deal with the storms.



£700

Who can set us free? *Acrylic on canvas 4 x 3 feet, 122 x 91 cm*

This painting was done with great joy and freedom. The past had gone and there was no need to dig it up! Jesus releases us from bitterness. He died, taking it with Him. We can receive this freedom with huge relief and joyful thankfulness.



£750

All paintings are for sale. For a price list please ask at the office.

Cards of the painting 'My Daughter' are for sale price £3.

Alison may be contacted on 07999 533700.

For more information about Alison Thistlethwaite, see

www.alisonthistlethwaite.com