

Poet Allen Curnow wrote,
*Simply by sailing in a new direction
 you could enlarge the world.*
 Sometimes it's good to write down our
 hopes and dreams for the future. Later on we

can come back and reflect on what we've
 achieved, what can be done differently and
 what more we can do on the amazing journey
 of life.
 Happy dreaming, writing and creating.



Exploring together
journals@trinity



The journal of reflections, thoughts, ideas and artwork begins with the stained glass window at Trinity Methodist Church.

We live in a marine suburb so the art reflects that. Each sea creature, including the humble nautilus, shows the beauty of design with the spiral. This pattern is repeated throughout the universe, from distant galaxies, down to the design of our inner ear.

The artist saw the wonder of that design as if in a story which Jesus Christ told, the parable of the pearl of great price. You can find it in the New Testament, Matthew 13:45,6.

The Greek letters along the bottom of the window also tell the story of who we are and why we gather.

They spell the Greek word ichthus, which

means fish. But they also make a secret code, an acronym. In Greek, take the first letter of each word in the English phrase Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour. It will spell ichthus

This became the secret sign for Christians in the early years when they were forbidden to gather. Look for the sign of the fish for a secret house church. They were dangerous times, very different from today.

Your reflections can be as art, collaged photos and clippings, painting, drawing, creative writings, poetry, verses from songs you like, or parts of short stories or bible verses you want to remember. You might finish it in a week, a month, or a year.



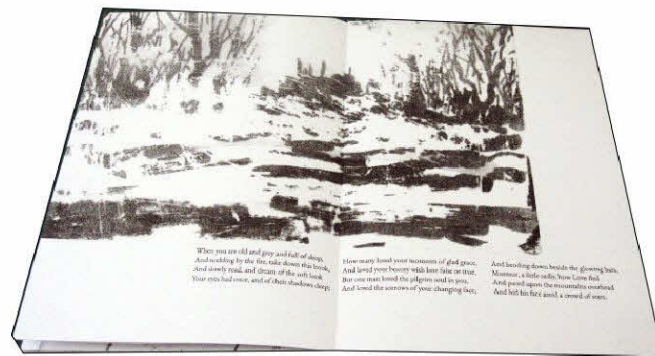
David Bell did this art work for a poem called *An Ignorance, a Sunset*

It's quite a hard poem to understand but the author, Emily Dickinson from 19th century America, captured a feeling most people have.

That's all about being surprised and delighted by sunrises and sunsets. They are often dramatic, to say the least.

How about you? You can explore music or nature or art—there's a whole spectrum of ways to do that, and still capture that same feeling of something special happening. The right mood at just the right time.

Write or draw something that has really caught your attention. You will know it even better.



It cannot be that the people
should grow in grace unless
they give themselves to
reading. A reading people
will always be a knowing
people.

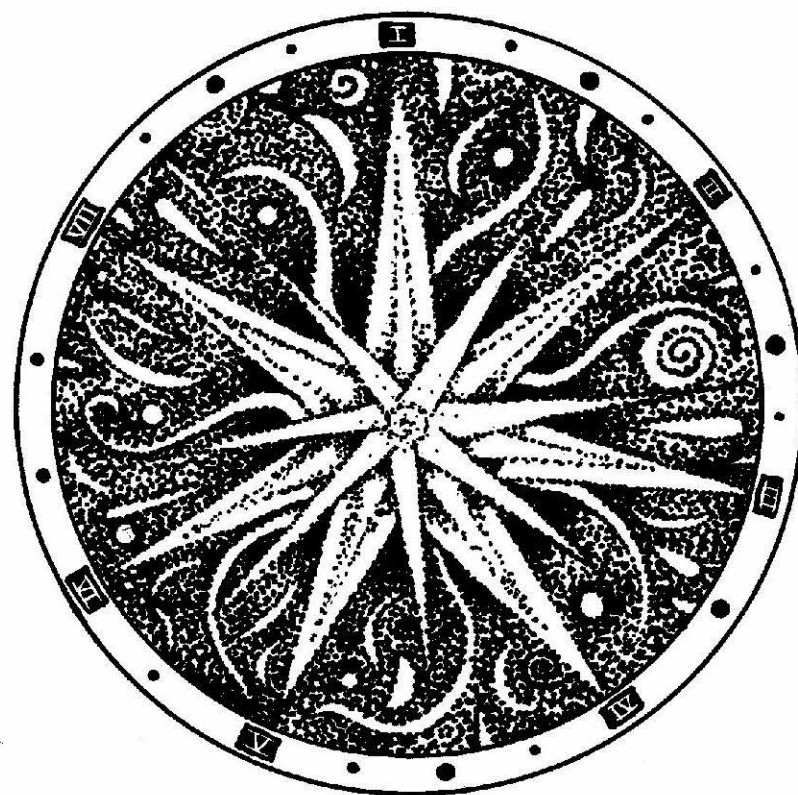
John Wesley

Do you like reading? It's a lovely thing to be
able to read a novel, or even a text book.
Maybe best of all, to read a poem aloud.

Our church began as the Methodist
movement within the Anglican church. The
leader was Rev John Wesley. It's been said he

saved England from civil war in the 18th
century because of how he organised the
people around all the churches and chapels.

He encouraged Methodists to read widely and
think about what they read. The Bible was the
most important book to learn from and about.

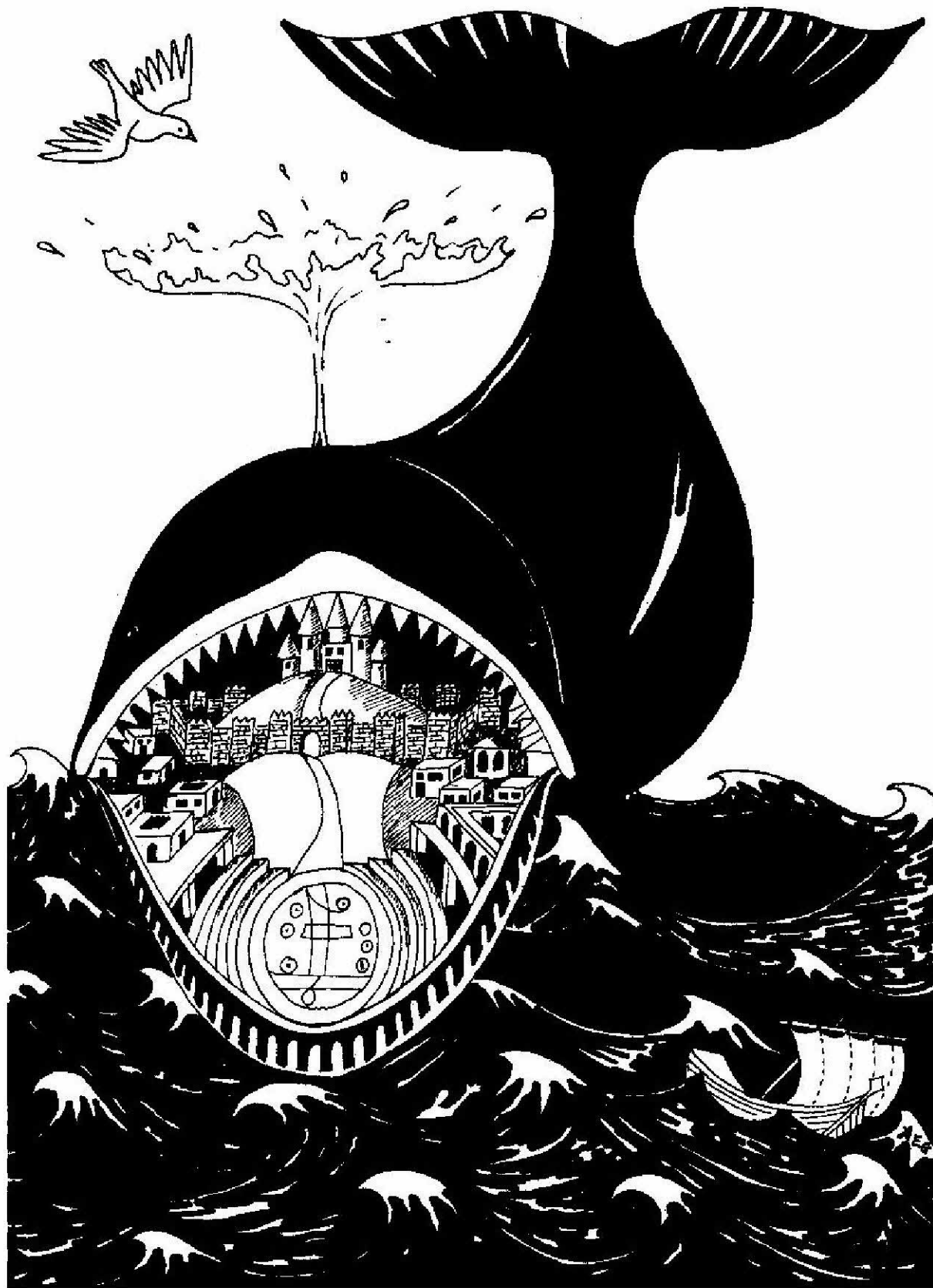


Melissa Martyn drew this creation starburst to
have seven main rays lighting up each day of
the week. Did you know that in Jesus' time the
rabbis (teachers) said the first six days of the
week welcomed the seventh, the Sabbath.

God, they said, thought it was a special day
too; one when we could gather as if one family
to be thankful and share the gifts found all
through our fellowship. Today we do the same.

We read the bible aloud in church on Sundays
to learn and to discuss what it all means.

Do you like reading aloud? Do you like
writing things down? Do you like drawing and
graphics? They're all related activities and can
be fun. Try drawing your own starburst around
maybe the 5 days of school. Or the long
holidays, or something you like and enjoy.



Anne Gray created this graphic for a sermon about the Book of Jonah. It's a very short and humorous book in the Old Testament. It's a firm favourite with young and old.

See if you can find out all about the story and what it means. Maybe write about it, or draw a graphic. You can use this graphic as a starting point.

Find photos of the great whales playing in the great oceans, and maybe collage them here.

Collaging is really important in art and design. It means cutting graphics and moving them around your paper, until it's just right, then pasting into position. The final page of this journal is an example of collage art.



Anne Gray drew this as part of the story of Noah's Ark. We don't take the story literally—they never did, even back then—but it conveys a profound truth about how fragile the Earth is, how we all have a duty of care to it.

Our planet and all its life needs help and protection. The Lord God made us stewards.

How can we help make a difference for the good of our Ark, our Earth as it flies through time and space?

Some research is called for! Google this: 'youtube the animals went in two by two'. Now that's worth writing up.

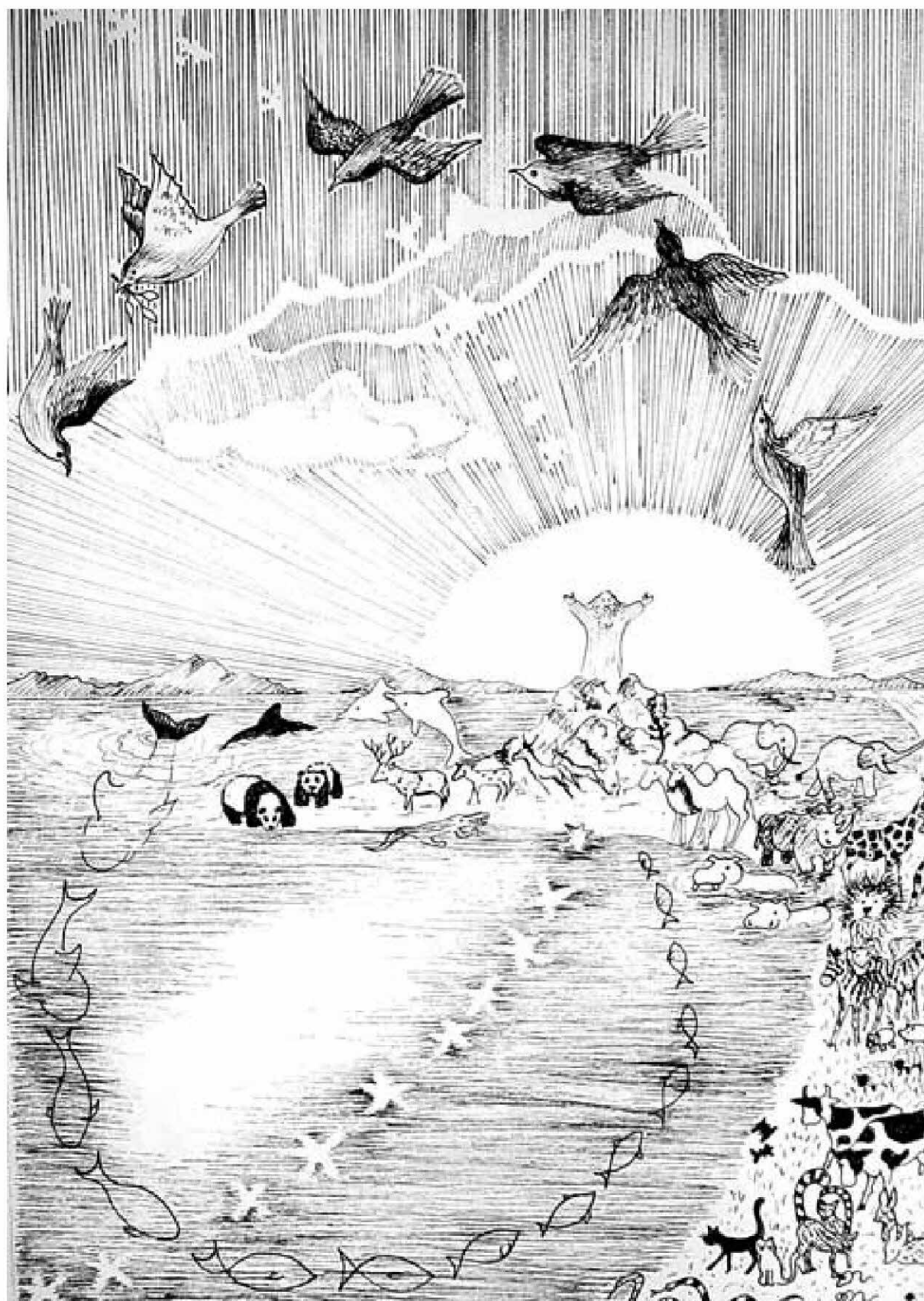


Anne Gray drew this to show the meaning of Pentecost. That's a special Sunday in the Christian year. It comes from the Greek word 'pente' which means the number 50.

Pentecost is named as 50 days after Easter, and is all about the the gift of the Holy Spirit. Anne thinks of it as encircling the

whole world, where we are joyful and thankful, linking hands and hearts together.

Maybe try researching the story of Pentecost in the Book of Acts, and write a short play about what happened. Maybe try drawing and painting about the whole world and your special place in it.



When the Ark landed and the floods receded, Noah was able to look out and see the great circles of life all around.

From the North to the South Pole, there are all the creatures in their places. Where would you like to travel to on the voyage of the Ark?



Melissa Martyn drew this for the Adam and Eve story from the book of Genesis. It's called *In the Swim of Life*.

It shows the four ancient rivers of Eden, the Tigris, Gihon, Pishon and the great Euphrates. How important water is for all life.

There's a famous book from colonial times in

New Zealand, *A River Rules My Life*. That was about the Rangitata, in Te Waipounamu.

Today Maori knowledge of the importance of rivers resulted in a landmark declaration of the spiritual significance of the Whanganui River. Maybe write a poem or haiku on rivers. And, there's lots to draw as well.



Imagine if you could travel back in time. Yes! Melissa Martyn drew this as if we were looking first at the dawn of creation with the trees, then the civilizations which followed.

There's the pyramids of Egypt through to the

tall tower blocks of modern cities. If you could travel in time where would you like to explore? Would you want to go back or forwards into the future? You're already travelling there. Much to write about.