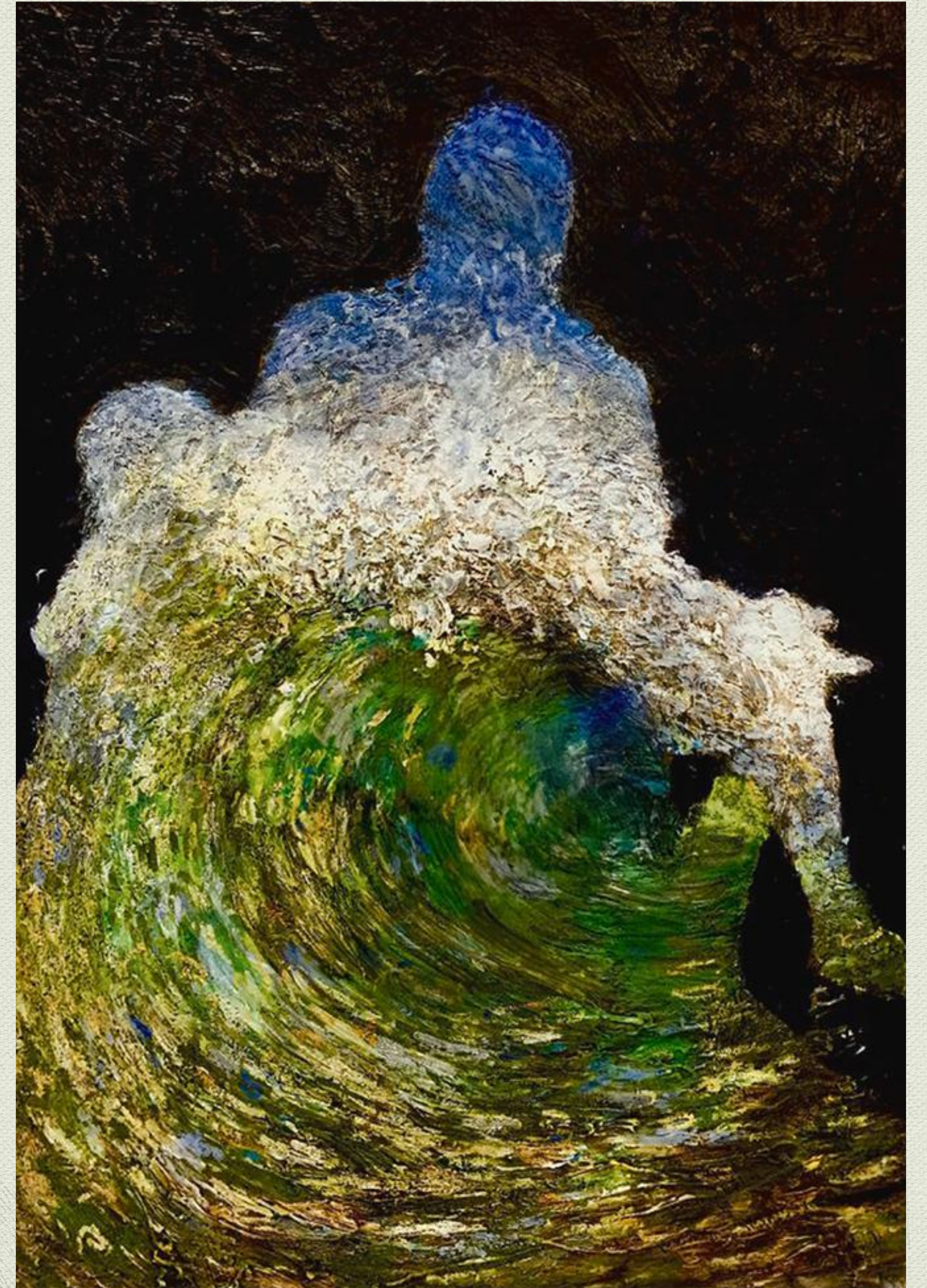


The Unraveling

The Long-Suffering Compassion of God



14

*For those who cling to the true God, it is said,
“Clear the way that they travel; widen the roads and make them
smooth!*

Take away any difficulty so that they may go easily!”

15

*For the highest God above,
who is and always will be, the only One who is holy has this to
say:*

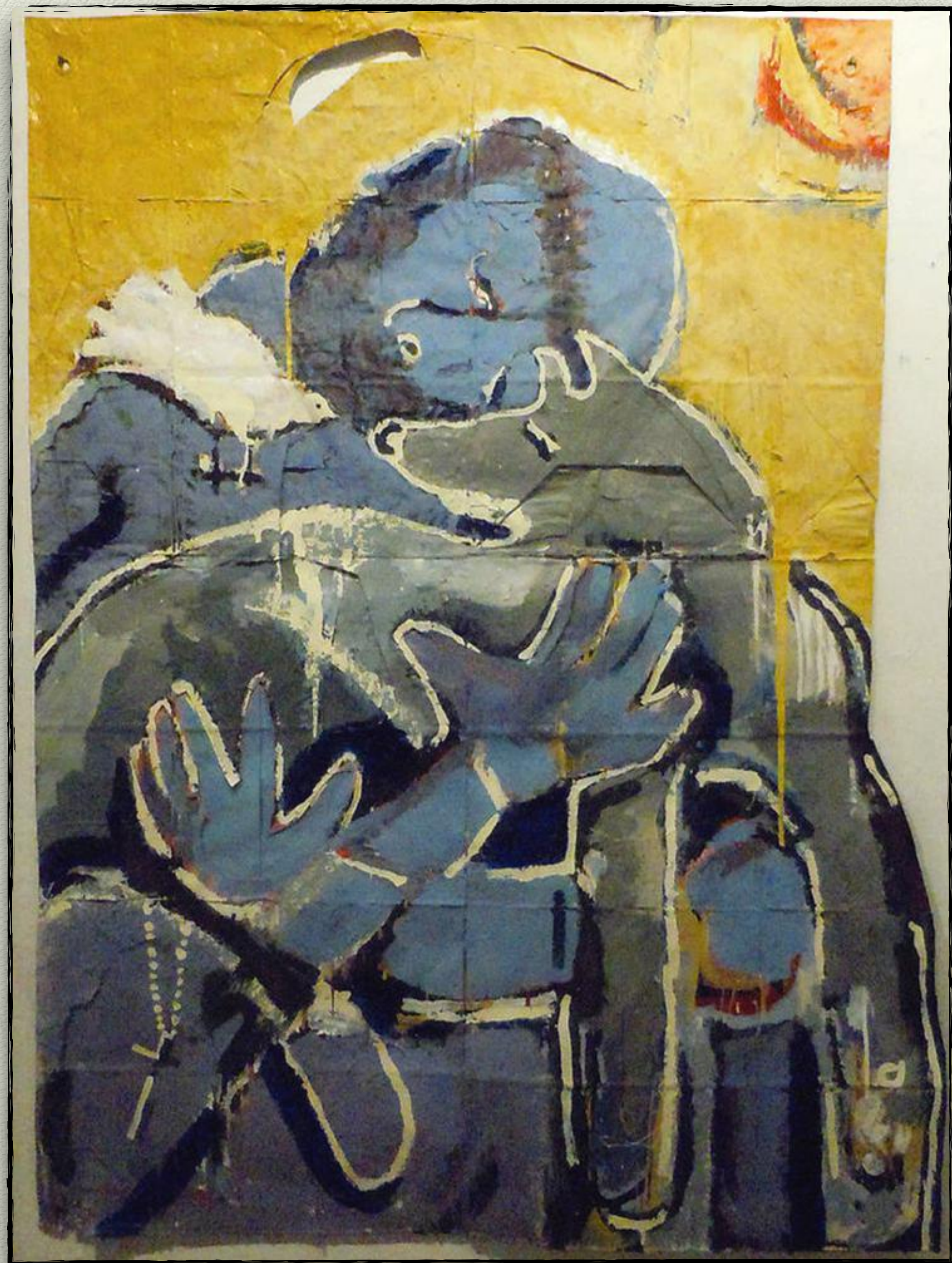
*Eternal One: I live in the high and holy place,
yet I am with the low, the weak, and the humble.
I renew their vitality and revive their strength.*

16

*For I will not struggle against them forever,
and I won't always be angry.*

*For the human spirit would grow faint —
the breath of life I created would soon grow weak.*





17

*Yes, they infuriated Me with how they profited from their greed
and violence,
so I struck them down and turned My back on them,
And still they persisted in their wrongdoing.*

18

*I have seen how they act, but I will still bind them up and make
them well again.*

I will show them the way, comfort and console them.

19

I will create in them a desire to praise.

*“Peace, peace, to those far away.
All will be well, wherever you are.”*

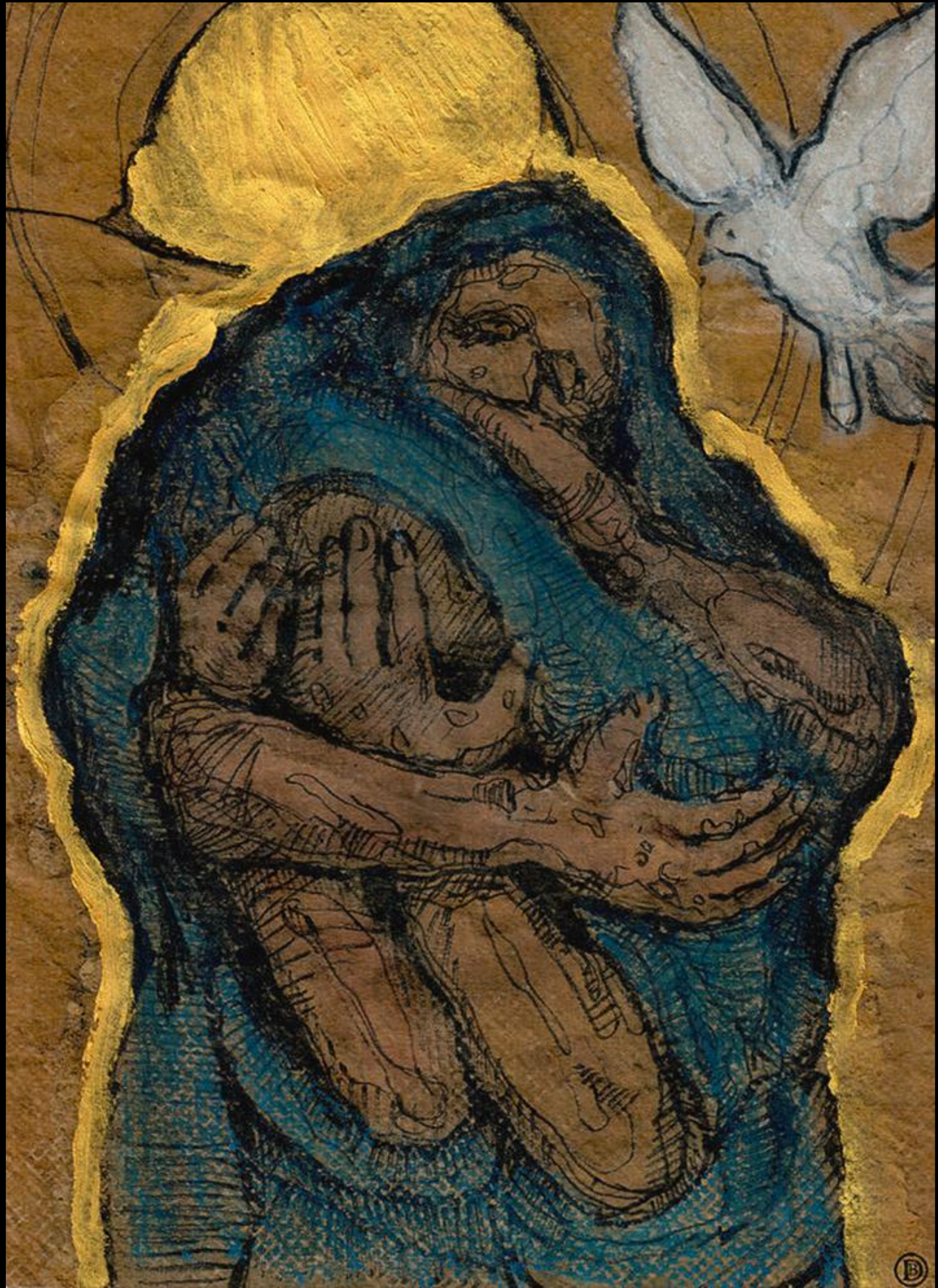
And I will heal them.

20

*By contrast, the wicked are all riled up
like a storm-tossed sea that cannot be calmed.
Its crashing waves wash up muck and dirt on the shore.*

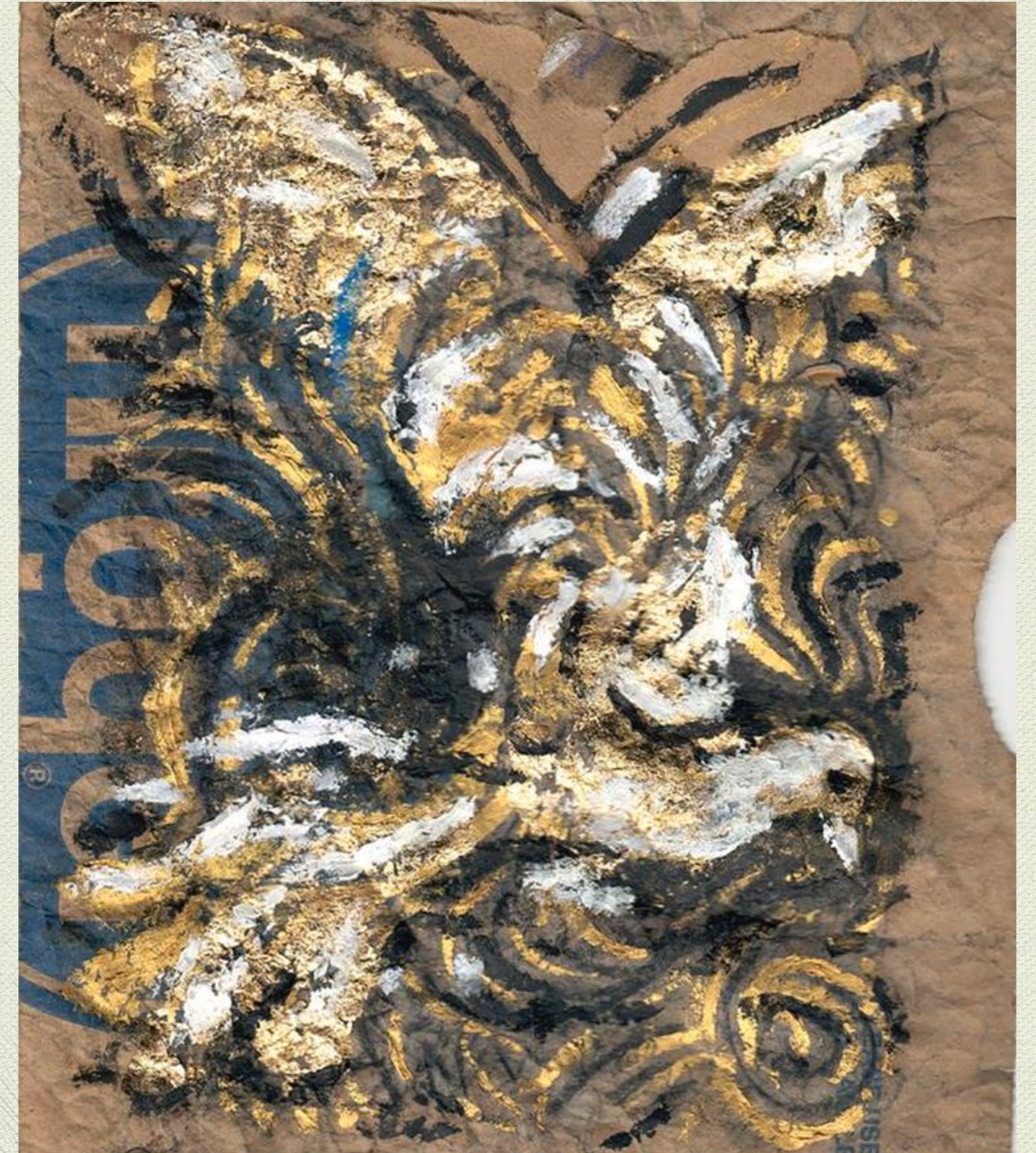
21

But there will be no peace for the wicked.



High & Low

- ◆ “The juxtaposition of high-holy and lowly-crushed is at the core of Yahweh’s self-disclosure, the mystery of God who is the subject of biblical faith.”
- Brueggemann





Binding Up

“The cumulative effect of the three terms [heal, lead, restore] is a fully guaranteed well-being because of the attentive presence and powerful resolve of Yabweh. The cluster of terms calls to mind the complete reliance upon Yabweh’s voice in Psalm 23, where in a vulnerable sojourn one is completely safe, protected, fed, nurtured, led, and guarded” - Brueggemann



“Shalom is now Yahweh’s unqualified intention for all of Yahweh’s people, a state of well-being that is the result of heal-lead-repay with comfort. It is a new gift given by the one high and holy, who aims at revival of the lowly-crushed community.”

- Brueggeman

All Will Be Well

“Human understanding can never fully comprehend God’s ways, and hence the messages of judgment and promise must be repeated in relation to new situations....continuity and change form a necessary dialectic in the relationship between the living God and the human community”

– Hanson

Breakout Groups

Group 1: Arthur, Wade, Penny, Lyle, Lydia, Mel

Group 2: Carolin, Cal, Linda, Marilyn, Verda, Eldon

Group 3: Paul, Bev, Gloria, Jen, Marty, Brenna



"Where do you see God wanting to heal you into wholeness (shalom)?
How does your Lectio reading of Isaiah 57:18-19 speak into this situation for you?"

In my own words...

I am beyond the biggest thing you can imagine and also in the most minuscule thing. The nova and the quanta. I am everywhere and also in no single place. I know you huddle in fear, seeing your death approaching and feeling powerless. The consciousness of death is truly terrifying. I know that if I removed Myself, you would not be able to bear this knowledge; it would drive you insane. You need my Spirit to live, and somehow I want to plant that awareness deep inside you. I have created you with free will, an awesome and terrible gift. But I haven't left you bereft. I surround you, above and below, I hover near. I wait for your humble prayers, the ones you hardly think about, the groanings. I know you prioritize your endless busy efforts because you don't yet know this deep within you. Somehow I want to show you this without coercion. That is my suffering and it tears me apart. Because honestly, My deepest hopes are that we have a partnership. That you turn to Me in yourself, not groveling or aggrandizing. Just as you are, shadow and light. Then all will be well. Then I will put the salve of peace on your existential wounds. I will bind up your dread with the linen of Love. You will know that you are exactly what is needed, exactly as you are in Me, in life and in death.



Under The Mercy