

Christ Before Me



**Featuring artwork
by Anita Horton**



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gallery • Easter 2025

Artist Statement

In honor of Carter Robert Couch

The story is long and painful to remember.

It started in March of 2020, and my heart is still mending. It is about loss; so much loss. The loss took many forms, and it broke me. In my anguish, the Lord, my Rock, led me to Him, through the beauty of flowers.

Anita Horton
January, 2025

*I arise today through a mighty
strength, the invocation of the
Trinity, through belief in the Threeness,
and the confession of the Oneness of
the Creator of creation. Through the
strength of Christ's birth and His
baptism, through the strength of His
crucifixion and His burial, through the
strength of His resurrection and His
ascension, through the strength of the
Holy Spirit, the lover of God.*

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ
behind me, Christ in me, Christ
beneath me, Christ above me, Christ
on my right, Christ on my left, Christ
when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart
of every man who thinks of me, Christ
in the mouth of everyone who speaks
of me, Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

From the Breastplate of St. Patrick

*All scripture included in this booklet is from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.



Canna
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

I decided to paint flowers chronologically for a year—a way to mark the seasons of change and healing.

Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.

Luke 12:27



Azalea
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
27 x 40 in.
\$1,400

Giant clouds of fire-hot magenta blooms take over the lawns, parks, and sidewalks, delighting the eye! Troves of people from all over the city gather family and friends together to snap cherished photographs with this colorful background. While walking, I was able to admire the different, less popular color varieties that I hadn't noticed in earlier years. All anxiety and worry left me when billows of color surrounded me.

Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow.
Isaiah 1:18



Mountain Cedar
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

At the onset of the pandemic (March 2020), my love of international travel abruptly stopped when I had 6 hours to evacuate India. Through tears and a racing heart, I left everything behind, including my possessions, artwork, and beloved friends, and locked my front door. My greatest fear was that I would not be able to reach my daughter, her husband, and my baby grandson. I was told that anyone leaving India and connecting in Dubai (like I was) might have to quarantine for two weeks in a military camp in the Middle East. I was petrified. This did not happen. Praise be to God.

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.

Deuteronomy 31:8



Quince

Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper

22 x 28 in.

\$800

In Texas, winter doesn't last long. By early February, the atmosphere begins to shift, and spring is hiding, playing peek-a-boo, just around the corner. It's not uncommon for the trees to blossom with tender, frail buds and, with little warning, the temperature will drop and freeze them off. It's the same for me. I knew I was getting mentally and emotionally stronger, and then my anxiety would be triggered, and I'd have to begin again. Because of this, I've had to strictly regulate what I listen to and read.

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Philippians 4:8



Magnolia
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
27 x 40 in.
\$1,400

The enormous magnolia tree, with waxy, broad, dark green leaves and deliciously fragrant white blooms, is a Texas favorite. The large, bulbous blossoms were usually just out of my reach when walking along Armstrong Avenue, but I'd grab a branch and pull downward or twist myself under fencing just to get a whiff.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23



Foxglove
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
27 x 40 in.
\$1,400

The spring rains didn't stop my restorative daily walks. It was sometimes difficult to avoid the splashes and puddles, but if I made the effort to be out in nature, nature rewarded me. Growing seasons are miraculous; just as one kind of flower begins to fade, other ones bloom and stand proud, demanding attention.

I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.
Ezekiel 34:26



Peony
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

At one of my childhood homes, my parents planted two peony bushes on the front side of a big boulder, near the area where my Dad parked his truck. This large rock was naturally formed but looked like a whale, and it was full of fossils. Every year, enormous, fluffy blossoms would bloom and almost completely hide the boulder. I'd often think of family memories while walking in the warm sun. With each step and each brushstroke, I was coming to terms with my losses and expressing my gratitude for all my many blessings. I was aware that my spiritual life was being transformed completely. I was being transformed into Christ's likeness like never before.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Romans 12:2



Beautyberry
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

I was caught off guard when the world changed in March of 2020. Today, my blessings far outweigh my sorrows, although my heart continues to bleed from all that was lost.

And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?
Luke 12:28



Coneflower
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

I have been remarkably blessed in my life. Thank you, Lord, for your abundant mercies and grace over the years.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.

Isaiah 40:8



Iris

Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

Although they come in many colors, the purple ones are my favorite. Every time I see the stunning, curled lip of the Iris and those large, beefy buds, I am transported back to my childhood backyard. At the back fence were many purple Iris flowers. My mom and her neighbor planted the bulbs. Over time, they multiplied into enormous clusters. I am reminded of soft grass on bare feet, the warm sun, and my funny, little brother.

It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.
1 Corinthians 3:7



Wisteria
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

I found a hidden passageway just off the Katy Trail, where I often walked. Because this place was so special to me, I saved it for exploring on the weekends. It gave me something to look forward to. I often imagined bringing my two-year-old grandson here. During the early months of the pandemic, I spent precious time being his nanny for 7 months. We grew close, and during FaceTime phone calls, he wanted to look at my flower paintings. His favorite color was purple, and he'd get excited to name the colors he knew. He was my biggest fan!

Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children.
Proverbs 17:6



Lantana
Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
22 x 28 in.
\$800

These common flowers are easily taken for granted, but upon closer inspection, these delicate flower clusters are very complex. The same could be said of life. We think we know. We think we are in control. We think this is our home, but life is complex, and we do not know the seriousness of the battle going on in the spaces of life. We can take nothing for granted. All we can do is pour out our hearts to the One who holds all things.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:17 (NIV)



Tulips

Acrylic on Stonehenge Paper
27 x 40 in.
\$1,400

The neighborhoods of Highland Park and University Park in Dallas, Texas, showcase their blooms outrageously in springtime! The meticulous work of gardeners and landscaping crews is displayed in full glory throughout the spring season. When walking, I smelled the fragrances of cut lawns and floral scents from one block to the next. When I see tulips, I am reminded that Easter is near.

The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.
Song of Solomon 2:11-12 (NIV)

Artist Bio



Roughly, the first third of my life was spent in the show-me state of Missouri. I was raised by a seamstress and a farmer. Both my parents lived through the Great Depression and found a use for every kind of thing before throwing it out. Holes in the knees of jeans got a patch, old tires became sandboxes, old dress shoes became fancy cars for my dolls, and snow was made into ice cream. Growing up in the country with little to do on lazy summer days created fertile soil for my imagination.

After earning my certificate to teach art and completing my BFA in 1982, I moved to Dallas and began a career in the advertising and graphic design field. In 2001, my career changed direction when the Lord led me into a teaching career at Trinity Christian Academy in Addison, Texas. I taught middle and high school art students for 12 years and developed a sculpture department within the award-winning Visual Arts Department. During this time I participated as a member of the Nasher Sculpture Center Teacher Advisory Board.

Wanting a new challenge, I moved my art education career overseas in 2013. Between 2013-2020, I taught elementary art in international schools in both Istanbul, Turkey and Chennai, India. With little warning I arrived back in Dallas, Texas when the world-wide pandemic broke out and eventually left teaching amid the COVID crisis. However, in the summer of 2023 the Lord relocated me to Austin, Texas to begin an art education career at Regents School of Austin. I am fortunate to be able to work in a loving and creative environment every day. It is my joy to help children learn about their creative gifts and to teach them that making art is a way to worship God.

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