

The Lines Between



Featuring
Artwork by Phaedra Taylor
Prayers by David Taylor

Prayers and paintings created for the book Prayers for the Pilgrimage, IVP, 2024



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gallery • Ordinary Time

Artist Statement

These paintings and prayers emerged from devotional practices that my husband, David (an Anglican priest and professor of theology), and I developed during the time we now call "Covid-tide." David began writing collect prayers (short prayers following an ancient form) and I began making tiny landscape paintings.

In these paintings, you'll find certain repeated elements, one of which is that of a house. Houses nestled in the hills, for me, speak to the way Christ waits for us inside our prayers, companioning us in the wilderness, offering comfort and rest along the way. The elements of gold and graphite exhibit a link between the seen and the unseen realities of our world. Graphite lines bridge sky and land, while metallic gold sometimes drips, sometimes floats, through or presses from behind.

David wrote prayers every day for a year, making use of the "collect" form with its typical five-fold shape (from "O Lord" to "In the name of"), which provides a compact way to offer up to God all of the concerns of our hearts.

Though neither of us envisioned this work traveling beyond our own personal lives, when the fog of Covid lifted, it became evident that our combined work might serve others, too. In the summer of 2024, IVP published it as a book, titled "Prayers for the Pilgrimage", which contains over 400 prayers and 22 images.

As I made new paintings for the book, I began to worry that they should be something bigger and more interesting, but I came to see that what I'd already been making was exactly what the book needed, nothing more. Jesus offers us the same in our practice of prayer: we can come to him just as we are with our small hearts and our insufficient words, and they are enough, because he is enough.

Each painting in the gallery is paired with a prayer that we chose from the book. The prayer is made using a process called encaustic, a way of painting with hot beeswax, resin, and pigment. The colors and textures of the wax reference aged gravestones, which are often engraved with scriptures or hymns. These words have stood the test of time and trace the lineage of many faithful saints through time.

As we join the generations of those who have proclaimed the same truth and petitioned the same sorts of prayers to God, may we experience the comfort and companionship of Christ, the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the landscape of prayer, and the welcome of the Father to places of home and rest along the way.

-Phaedra Taylor

Prayers and paintings created for the book, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, IVP, 2024

***All encaustic prayer pieces are available for collection, archival prints of the paintings are available from the artist.*



A Morning Prayer

O Lord, you who promise daily bread, may I be faithful to all you have entrusted to me this day, no more and no less, I pray, and let me not become anxious over things that I cannot control, so that I may experience the peace of Christ which guards my heart and mind. I pray this in the name of Jesus, the one who is the Author and Finisher of my faith. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for Morning and Evening

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
5" x 7"
2023
Prints available



Prayers for Joy and Sorrow

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5" x 6.5"
2023
Prints available

A Prayer for the Triple Power of Joy

O Lord, you whose coming is a cause for joy to the whole world, may your joy be a strength, we pray, for the tired of body, a holy medicine for the faint of spirit and a bond of friendship for the estranged, so that your joy might be a taste this day of our true home in the midst of exile. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the One who promises to make our joy complete. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024



A Prayer for the Blessing of the Father

O Father, you who are the Creator of all things, we praise you for being the source of life, the architect of creation and the originator of all good things in heaven and on earth; grant us fresh ideas, we pray, fill us with new vigor and bless our labors, so that we may fulfill your creative purposes in and through us this day. We pray this in the name of the Infinitely Imaginative One. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for Creatives

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5"x 6"
2023
Prints available



A Prayer to Become a Justice Loving People

O Lord, you who hate those who record unjust decisions, may we be a people who stand against injustice that occurs anywhere as a threat to justice everywhere, so that we might become worthy representatives of your righteous kingdom and extremists for Christ's love this day. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the One who sets the oppressed free. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for a Violent World

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5 x 5"
2023
Prints available



Nature Prayers

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3" x 5.5"
2023
Prints available

A Prayer for Taking Pleasure in God's Creation

O Lord, you who are the Creator of heaven and earth, may we take pleasure in your creation this day as you take pleasure in it, we pray, and may we may live this day as a people who have been crowned with glory, so that all that we do may be done in praise of you and in anticipation of that day when the whole world shall be made fully and forever alive. We pray this in the name of the One who makes heaven and earth for love's sake. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, *Prayers for the Pilgrimage*, 2024



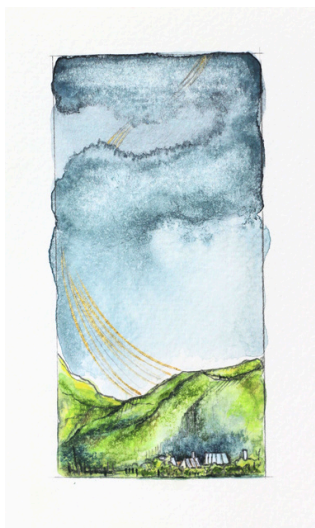
Prayers for Sickness and Health

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5" x 5"
2023
Prints available

A Prayer for the Healing of the Body

O Lord, you who healed the sick and touched the leper, heal my body, I pray, have mercy upon my soul, console my weary heart and sustain me in my hour of need, so that I might endure this illness with patience and be brought to full recovery in the joyful certainty that you are my haven and my health. I pray this in the name of Jesus, my Great Physician. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, *Prayers for the Pilgrimage*, 2024



A Prayer for Speaking a Word of Blessing to All Whom I Meet

O Lord, you who from whom all blessings flow, may my mouth be full of blessing this day, I pray, speaking a blessing to my family at home, to my friends near and far, to the stranger on the way and to the enemy in the way, so that I might become a living beatitude for Christ's sake. I pray this in the name of the One who commands our blessing. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for Relational Life

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5" x 5.5"
2023
Prints available



A Prayer for Sunday

O Lord, you whose beauty is radiant like the sun, may we be filled with you wholly this day as we praise your name from the rising of the sun to its setting, we pray, so that weight be a radiant reflection of your beauty to all whom we meet on the way. We pray this in the name of the Lord God who is our Sun and Shield. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for Monday to Sunday

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3" x 5"
2023
Prints available



Prayers for School

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5" x 5.5"
2023
Prints available

A Prayer for Parents Sending Their Children Off to a New School

O Lord, you who promise to guide us through the wilderness and to protect us through the storm, make us brave, we pray, where we feel afraid, make us strong in the face of our weaknesses and make possible what to us seems impossible, so that we might joyfully entrust ourselves and our children into your tender care as they go off to school and fulfill your good purposes for them in this new season of life. We pray this in the good name of Jesus. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024



Children's Prayers

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5" x 5.5"
2023
Prints available

A Prayer for Anxious Children at Bedtime

My Good Shepherd, shepherd me
Hear my prayer and my plea
May I sleep in peace tonight
In your warm and shielding light

Help me not to feel alone
Be my refuge and my home
Please protect my heart from fear
And to trust that you are near

Guard me from all things that harm
And enfold me in your arms
Thank you, Lord, for your sweet care
And for hearing this my prayer

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024



A Prayer for Loving a Hurting Neighbor

O Lord, you who do not look away from the pain of this world, open our eyes, we pray, to see the pain of our neighbor and, by God's grace, to become the healing presence of the Spirit to them, so that our hearts might be kindled with your neighbor love this day. We pray this in the name of the God whose heart breaks over the troubled and helpless of this world. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for the Love of Neighbor

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper

3" x 5"

2023

Prints available



A Prayer for the Consecration of One's Body for the Labors of the Day

O Lord, you who made us to till and to keep the earth, I offer to you my hands and my feet, my head and my heart, my eyes and my ears and my mouth; consecrate them, I pray, so that I might accomplish the things that you have entrusted to me for this day. I pray this in the name of the One who has made me fearfully and wonderfully. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for Work

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper

3.5" x 6"

2023

Prints available



Prayers for the Virtues and Vices

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper

3" x 5"

2023

Prints available

A Prayer for Hope

O Lord, you who are the hope of all the ends of the earth, meet me, I pray, in the darkness of my small despairs and speak a word of hope to my anxious heart, so that I might wait faithfully for the fulfillment of your promises in my life and find hope renewed in the hour of my need. I pray this in the name of the One who is the hope of the farthest seas. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024



Prayers for Birth to Death

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper

3" x 5"

2023

Prints available

A Prayer for One's Birthday

O Lord, you who rejoice over me with singing, I thank you for my birthday today and ask that you would bless me, from head to toe and inside out, so that I might burst with life in the year to come and fulfill your good purposes for me all the days of my life. I pray this in the name of the One who exults over me with shouts of joy. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024



Prayers for the Secular Calendar

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper

5" x 7"

2023

Prints available

A Prayer for Christmas Eve

O Lord, you who assumed flesh and bone, we praise you this night for your Incarnation and for making manifest thereby Love Divine, all loves excelling; make your love incarnate in us, we pray, so that we may become wholly flesh of your flesh and bone of your bone in all that we do and say this day and forever more. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the one whose infant hands shall burst our bands. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024



Prayer for Mundane Life

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper

3" x 5"

2023

Prints available

A Prayer Before a Meal

O Lord, you who sustain us from the bounty of the earth, we thank you for this meal; may it nourish and strengthen us, and may we always remain thankful to those who farm, make and distribute this food and this drink, so that we may be generous in all that we say and do. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024



A Prayer for the Love That is Not Proud of Oneself

O Lord, you who resist the proud but give grace to the humble, help me, I pray, to think neither too much nor too little of myself this day, so that I might be fully at home in my own skin, grateful for what I am by grace, no more and no less. I pray this in the name of the One who has made me fearfully and wonderfully so. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for the Love of Self

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3" x 5"
2023
Prints available



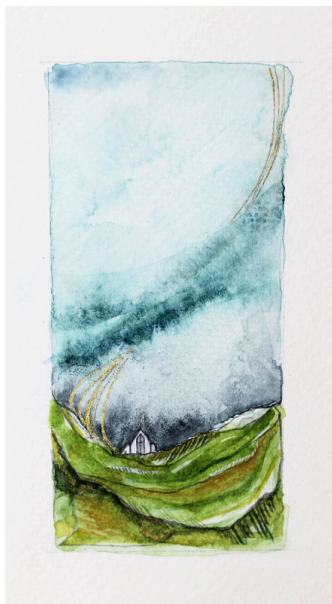
A Prayer for Being the Light of the World

O Lord, you who are the Light of the world, may the light of your countenance shine upon our face, we pray, so that we might be sons and daughters of the light, fully and freely participating in everything bright and beautiful that you have for us this day. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the One in whom there is no darkness. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for the Love of God

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
2.5" x 5"
2023
Prints available



An Advent Prayer

O Lord, you who establish the work of my hands, go behind and before me, I pray, be above and below me and be also my guide and my guardian, so that I may trust you in all things and fulfill your good purposes for me this day. I pray this in the name of the Shepherd of my soul, Jesus Christ Himself. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for the Church Calendar

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3 x 5"
2023
Prints available



For Commending Ourselves Wholly to Christ

This moment, however fleeting, be yours, O Christ.
This hour, however brief, be yours, O Christ.
This day, however fickle, be yours, O Christ.
My life, however long, be yours, O Christ.
May I be your own and you ever be mine,
This day and forever, I pray, O Christ.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Celtic Prayers

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3" x 5.5"
2023
Prints available



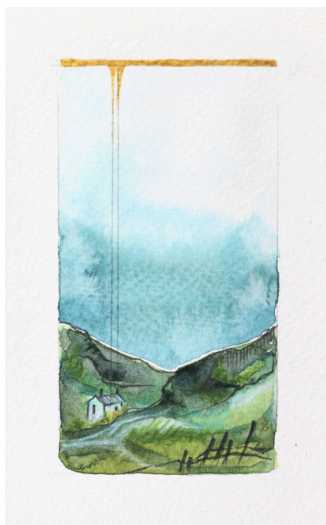
A Prayer for Being Heralds of Good News

O Lord, you who are the author of all goodness, make us, we pray, heralds of your good news, signposts of your good name, instruments of your good work and a foretaste of the fullness of goodness in the age to come for those who do not know you today, so that all who encounter us might know and love you. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

Prayers for Public Life

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
5.5" x 6.6"
2023
Prints available



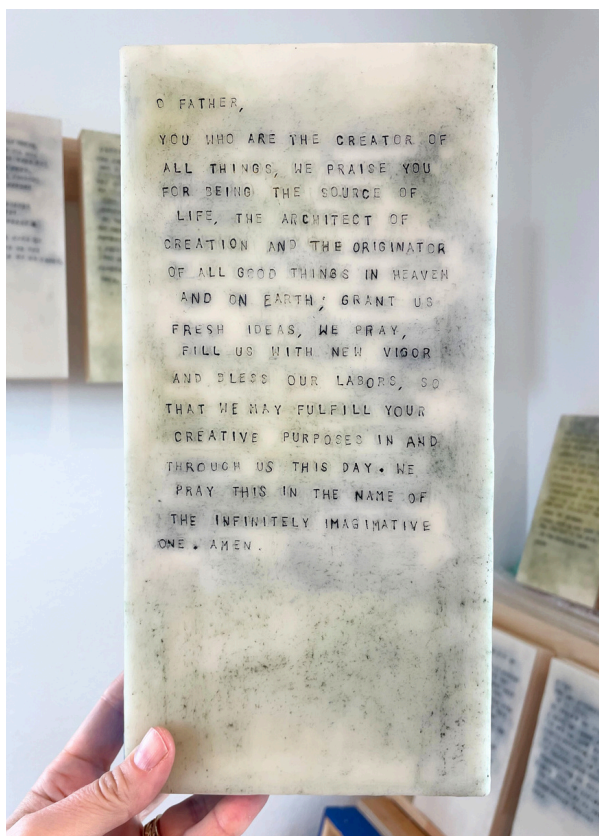
An Evening Prayer

O Lord, you who remain sovereign over all the forces of chaos, be my shelter and comfort this night, I pray, as I lay myself to sleep, so that I might rise in the morning rested and restored, certain that you have set my feet on the path of life. I pray this in the name of Yahweh, the God who is my Sanctuary. Amen.

W. David O. Taylor, Prayers for the Pilgrimage, 2024

A Prayer for the Nobodies of the World

Watercolor, graphite, and ink on paper
3.5" x 5.5"
2023
Prints available



Encaustic Prayer Pieces

Each of the prayers is on display in the gallery as an encaustic piece paired with its respective watercolor painting.

Encaustic on wood

6" x 9"

2024

\$250

Phaedra Taylor



Phaedra Jean Taylor was raised on the rocky shores of northern Scotland, where a love of all things old seeped into her bones. At thirteen she was transplanted to Texas, where she learned to love open spaces and quiet landscapes.

She completed her BFA in sculpture at the University of North Texas, where she was also awarded the Most Outstanding Student in the Visual Arts award. She interned at the Chinati Foundation, in Marfa Texas, shortly thereafter where she was profoundly influenced by spending hours in the company of the works in the collection.

Since then she has been exploring the disciplines of encaustic painting and watercolor. She is interested in ideas of play, journey, memory, and belonging. Her work has been exhibited in juried, group, and solo exhibitions, and is held in private collections of various individuals around the globe. Phaedra lives in Austin, Texas with her husband, Anglican priest and theologian, David Taylor, and two children, Blythe and Sebastian. Together they make creative liturgical resources for families and church communities.

Her days are taken up with attempting to maintain a consistent studio practice while negotiating the demands of motherhood and the joys of gardening.

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David Taylor



W. David O. Taylor is Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary and the author of several books, including *Prayers for the Pilgrimage* (IVP, 2024), *A Body of Praise* (Baker Academic, 2023), *Open and Unafraid: The Psalms as a Guide to Life* (Thomas Nelson, 2020). An Anglican priest, he has lectured widely on the arts, from Thailand to South Africa. In 2016 he produced a short film on the psalms with Bono and Eugene Peterson. .

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