

# imagine

an **OPEN PLACE** for **ALL**

The arts are very much like the Spirit. They are intangible. They are ends in themselves. They have an intrinsic value – art, music, and poetry in themselves are priceless. They are unique creations, not serial productions. They are like a gift we give to a loved one, valuable for its own sake. Somehow they escape the limits of time and bring us a foretaste of eternity. The universe and all beings are saturated with Spirit. Inspiration is in the air and settles on people without regard for their skin color, their social background, or their educational level. To recognize its presence in every corner of the cosmos is the work of spirituality, of life in the Spirit.

– *BRAZILIAN LIBERATION THEOLOGIAN  
LEONARDO BOFF*

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## **FIRST CHURCH ARTISTS**

have generously gifted to their beloved church family,  
**YOU**, their inspired embodiment of our **6 PRIORITIES**:

**PRACTICING HOSPITALITY**

**EMBODYING DIVERSITY**

**DOING JUSTICE**

**ENCOURAGING AUTHENTICITY**

**CREATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

**EMBRACING TOUGH QUESTIONS**



# BE YOU

PAINTING

BY KATIE JUSTICE

**ENCOURAGING  
AUTHENTICITY**

For me, authenticity shines brightest when I am with my friends. It is then that I am best able to let loose and be myself. Similarly, these relationships (both present and past) shape my authentic self over time.

This portrait features Hannah Green, a good friend that I made through First Church. The various patterns surrounding her represent the many parts of her life, experiences that have shaped her into who she is. Note also the use of gold dust throughout the portrait, a nod to the Japanese art of Kintsugi to meld broken pieces into a whole. And while each of these experiences can be good on its own, the way they are melded together creates a uniquely beautiful life.



# THE FIELD

Acrylic on panel, with found nature assemblage and poem

BY JUSTIN BANGER

**ENCOURAGING  
AUTHENTICITY**

I first read Mary Oliver's arresting poem "The Place I Want to Get Back To" as a writing prompt on retreat. What washed over me was a memory of childhood play in solitude. I was quite literally climbing through a hole in a wire fence and finding myself unexpectedly alone in a field filled totally with what I would now call wonder and belonging with the natural world. This moment was a mirror for me, I - somehow at 6 or 7 years old - knew in that moment exactly who I was in a way that didn't rely on words.

Authenticity is a kindness; the extending of a neverending invitation to find yourself in yourself; to remember every part of who you are and to turn to look yourself in the eye and let that be the ground from which you move forward (or retreat when you need to).

The art piece itself is an acrylic painting on a wooden panel. The interactive door and shadow box reveal elements found in nature and my poem-response to the prompt "What is the place You want to get back to?"

This is one of the most personal art pieces I have made. Following this thread and trusting the flow of the process were its own kinds of conversations with my authenticity as an artist. Knowing that my poetic recounting both initiated and would be a part of the piece, led to the idea of having a physical hole in the art work, which led to me making a custom wooden panel (and learning some new tools). Then, I had to decide what goes in the hole: the poem itself, of course, the poem itself, of course, and playful assemblages of nature I have collected over the last couple of years.

The birds in this work are from images taken recently in my backyard. Here they embody the way nature mirrors our wholeness and authenticity: oftentimes not seeming to look our way at all, but in moments of great kindness when we notice a bird being fully itself - we see ourselves more deeply too. What moments in your life, either simple or complex, indoors or outside, in the medium of words or the realm of the ineffable have you felt your authenticity and wholeness reflected back to you? If you'd like to share, come and find me.



# BEGINNINGS

Poetry

BY MELANY MORGAN

**ENCOURAGING  
AUTHENTICITY**

Believe it or not, this poem is mostly about childhood. It is about the experience of coming out of childhood innocence and into adulthood. It is about the many choices that young people are often asked to make - from things as small as what hobbies they pursue, to as big as college decisions and even career choices. As I have gone through these changes and choices, I have had the thought at many points in my life that the thing I wanted most would be to go back and relive my childhood. However, I have come to realize that there are problems with this. While childhood is a beautiful part of our lives, it is a place in which we grow into who we are. It is where our sense of self develops and where what becomes authentic to us, at least in part, is determined. Though I am a senior in high school, I am not at the end of my childhood, I am at the beginning of being able to live into the dreams of the child I still am and will always be. It is the beginning of my chance to live an authentic life in which I can use my own individual calling and hopes to make the world more like the one I saw as a child, one of hope, innocence, and endless possibilities.



# LENA

12"x18" multi-block Linocut print

BY **ROB HARDISON**

**ENCOURAGING  
AUTHENTICITY**

Embracing Authenticity can be a personal challenge for me whether I am daily tamping down demons or obscuring personal flaws. I chose to create a piece that depicts a pivotal moment of internal struggle. It is entitled, "Lena" taken from the Italian word for seesaw - altalena. A figure is cautiously peeling back a dark veil revealing a new day rising. The sun on the horizon resembles an eye - a reminder that the world outside will be watching. Observing. Judging. This makes the figure hesitant to come forth. She is anxious, perched on the balls of her feet she twists herself slightly to catch a brief survey of the outside remaining just shy of the veil opening save for a few slivers of light that expose her true self. She holds in her hand a mask and debates whether it will adorn her face as she emerges from behind the veil or if it will be dropped and left behind. Beneath her head, the scoop neckline of her tunic mimics the curved base of a rocker because her mind vacillates between thoughts of letting herself emerge authentically or exposing only what a watchful world will want to see.



# INCLUSION

Glazed and carved clay bowls

BY LARRY AND CAROL YORK

**CREATING AN  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

What better place to see inclusion than at First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama! Here our mission statement is "An Open Place for All". We were asked to make something that reflected that inclusion and came up with these two bowls. The first one is inscribed with that exact mission statement and the second one is inscribed with words from our SALT Sunday School class. "Love God, Love your neighbor, and Treat others the way you want to be treated."



# COMMUNION CHALICES

Glazed and carved clay chalices with patens

BY LARRY AND CAROL YORK

**CREATING AN  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

First Church is a beautiful home to a truly open and welcoming congregation. We have never experienced such warmth, acceptance, and hospitality. The United Methodist Church practices “open” communion which means ALL are welcome to receive the elements at the table who want to come partake. To embody the priority of inclusion we threw these chalices and patens, which can be used for our communion services where ALL are invited to come and receive. These chalices were used for the first time in our combined celebration worship service in the Sanctuary on May 5, 2024, following the Postponed 2020 General Conference which removed all of the harmful language for LGBTQIA+ persons from the Book of Discipline.



# ROOM FOR ALL

Five color reduction woodblock print, ink on hosho paper

BY MIMI BOSTON

**CREATING AN  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

A sunflower, a mint sprig, a cluster of cherry tomatoes. All plants, all food, all beautiful yet different - a flower, an herb, a vegetable (or fruit). Variety and diversity bring richness to our lives. Few would want to eat the same meal each day, we welcome people who may think differently, who may look differently than we do, there is room for all. All of our lives expand with inclusivity.





# THE WEAVER

Prose

BY RENEE HARMON

**CREATING AN  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

When I began to think about “inclusive community,” I sat down and wrote out all the labels I could think of that we have given to each other, labels used to “other” those not like us. It was astounding how many names we have devised to place human beings into specific groups. But humanity is made up of infinite varieties, all living together on this earth. Visually, I kept coming back to a piece of woven cloth, each strand representing an individual, and how, by incorporating all of humanity, the Divine has created a wonderful variegated tapestry. I began weaving strips of rainbow-hued paper together, and as I wove, a story began to take shape. Because I’ve been immersed recently in Greek mythology, a myth of the Goddess of the Loom emerged. Myth and metaphor can open us up to questions and new ways of seeing. Questions to ponder might be: What is the warp that is holding this tapestry together? How do I fit into this tapestry? What does the loose thread symbolize? Why does the tapestry hold together in the end?

# YOU WORSHIP A GOD OF LOVE?

Poetry

BY **BARRY COLE**

**CREATING AN  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**



During my early teens in the 1970s, I once visited a church with my sister. Even then, I was fully aware that I was attracted to other males but understood that I could never confess this fact to anyone else.

I felt alone and craved the loving touch of another human being.

I knew the fundamentalist dogma about "unrepented homosexuality" leading to eternal damnation. But that sermon added an extra thunderbolt by insisting that repentance itself was impossible for "reprobates" who had yielded to demons of same-sex desire. "Gotta reach them before they cross that line! No hope after that," he insisted. For the first and last time in my life, I was terrified of the God I loved. My journey away from that nauseating event took years, but I am now liberated to myself and my God, who loves me unconditionally and crafted my orientation in a way that deepens my love and respect for all marginalized people. I emerged on the other side of that dark tunnel, but my husband Darrell and I know others who did not.

There is no greater insult than to tell a young person that they cannot be loved by God. No deeper bruise that reaches the marrow of our bones. One of my friends committed suicide in front of a church early one morning, begging forgiveness from the God who made him gay and loved him beyond limits. Others deny their orientation and the pain ripples outward, augmented by historical, systemic injustice displayed in the photos on the left-hand side of my poem.

The photos on the right-hand side illustrate fulfillment, healing touch, and the knowledge that LGBTQ+ people are loved by God and have the divine ability to love each other.

We are a beautiful people made in the image of the God of Love.



# YOUR GOING OUT AND YOUR COMING IN: BROTHER BRYAN'S PRAYER

Watercolor on paper 16x20

BY CALEB CLARK

**DOING JUSTICE**

First Church illuminates silhouettes flowing in and out of her doors. It is an early evening in Birmingham.

Some, on entering the church, are coming to the source of their community and spiritual replenishment. Some, replenished, are carrying their fresh spirits into the city, where the real work of justice is longed for.

The city's view on this night is peppered with reminders of the state of things in our city. Landmarks of need, of power, of charity, of industry, of regret.

Brother Bryan prays in the middle ground, somewhere between human and monument, as the people breathe life into his prayer.

# WORTH THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE, THEN AND NOW..

Photography

BY STEVE PITTS

**DOING JUSTICE**



Thinking I would compile a montage of justice themed photos, I set out to walk a few blocks in the area of First Church looking for subject matter. I literally had only crossed Sixth Avenue when I found it. It was a Civil Rights Trail sign with the MLK quote: "Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle." In the shadows of First Church is a constant reminder of the struggles for justice from the past and continuing into our present. In my photo, the person depicted on the second sign appears to be walking toward our church where they will be welcomed and joined in their own struggle for justice. Kind of how it works at First Church.



# HOLDING THE WORLD AMIDST CHAOS

Acrylic on paper

BY JENNY DIXON

**DOING JUSTICE**

Idea generation and conceptualization was the most challenging part of this project for me. I was surprised to find that I didn't really understand my own feelings or knowledge about "Justice," so early on in the project I spent a great deal of time researching scriptures, symbolism, poetry, and historical and contemporary art.

I first started playing around with concepts on my iPad months ago, but wasn't getting anywhere. When my mother was in the hospital around Christmas I carried my iPad back and forth to the hospital. As I watched my 90 year old mother combat illness, I felt face to face with a question of justice. And I began a digital drawing. The original digital image took me about 8 hours to complete. Rather than a traditionally narrative, representational piece (which is more my current style), I just let my thoughts flow to form these images, which through color and shape, represented to me how justice exists in our world.

Once I had the digital image, I felt compelled to create a painting of the image. I very roughly sketched out the digital image on 180# Arches Watercolor paper. The image was easy to sketch, since I had already drawn it once - and I was not committed to it looking exactly the same. I just wanted to feel the brush and the flow of the paint, and let the piece take on a particular aesthetic.

"Justice combats the chaos that exists in the world. Through inclusion, spirit, morality could it flow around each of us, every person, nature, our entire world... connecting us, piecing us together like a quilt? It would indeed, take the power of God flowing down like water."



# JUSTICE WITH OPEN EYES

Acrylic on paper

BY JENNY DIXON

**DOING JUSTICE**

Idea generation and conceptualization was the most challenging part of this project for me. I was surprised to find that I didn't really understand my own feelings or knowledge about "Justice," so I spent a great deal of time researching scriptures, symbolism, traditional or historical images of Lady Liberty, and stained glass as narrative art. I am currently an oil painter working on developing my skills in contemporary realism. However, after thinking on it, I decided I wanted a more flat, graphic painting, and consequently chose to use Golden Acrylic paint for this project due to acrylic's fast drying time and its solid, flat properties. Posch Acrylic Markers were also used for some of the line work. I also chose to work on paper as opposed to canvas. I'm not sure why. After my research, the first step in the hands-on process was to create several thumbnail sketches in my sketchbook. This is a way to hone down the concept that was in my head and fine tune composition.

Next I made a pencil drawing, to size, on cheap newsprint paper. From there, I used artists' graphite paper to trace the image onto the final acrylic paper. Paint was then applied and adjusted as I went. I removed several of the main elements, and added others as I went, letting my intuition be a guide. There are several layers of paint in some areas. I appreciate being given the opportunity to participate in this creative project and hope you enjoy the final piece!

Notes: Lady Liberty is often depicted as blindfolded, to keep her from being influenced by others. However, here, Lady Liberty has her eyes wide open, so that she can see, and learn and judge for herself. The UN utilizes a similar Lady Liberty in their logo. Also, Lady Liberty is typically shown holding a sword. In this instance, she is holding wheat to signify love and charity. You will most likely recognize the Holy Spirit as Water, Dove of Peace, The Olive Branches and Inclusion For All, represented by the LGBTQ rainbow.



# HIDE IT UNDER A BUSHEL (NO!)

Acrylic paint on canvas

BY JENNA MOORE

**DOING JUSTICE**

A single lit candle provides the only light in a dark abyss lined by poisonous flowers. The sword and scales of justice are illuminated by the candle, protecting us and providing a way forward through the dark and danger. Justice can sometimes seem like too small of a flame, not always shining bright enough on all the injustice in the world. If we keep lighting more candles we will eventually spread the light and justice needed in our world.

I started coming to First Church over a year and a half ago. It has been a long time since I have felt at home in church. The Loft service with its music, sermons, and atmosphere is one of my favorite parts.



# A PLACE OF BEAUTY AND HOSPITALITY

Woodwork

BY JOHN PEVERLY

## **PRACTICING HOSPITALITY**

My faith begins with God's creation. Growing up in the farming Midwest, one readily sees what wonderful blessings He has prepared for us to use and enjoy. Creation is always happening as the seasons go by and it is good to be a part of that by sharing the beauty of woodworking.

I hope this garden bench created from God's beautiful trees is a quiet spot where all are welcomed, can be still, and find comfort and rest.





# SIT A SPELL

Watercolor, graphite, and acrylic

BY SHELBY REESE

**PRACTICING  
HOSPITALITY**

For many, myself included, the term "hospitality" can evoke images of a 50s housewife with her hair perfectly coiffed serving a delectable platter of hors d'oeuvre. Or perhaps one might picture the modern-day hostess, in her monochromatic and curated kitchen with clutter-free countertops, an espresso machine percolating, macaroons stacked neatly on a vintage Noritake plate accented with a crystal vase of freshly cut tulips from her garden. As I researched the idea of biblical hospitality and dug into the scriptures that support it, I found that the true picture of this practice is much messier and unkempt. It is a practice that gracefully declines the need to be the star of the show in favor of authentic connection. I learned that you will have succeeded in practicing biblical hospitality when your guest leaves the interaction feeling better about themselves, not in awe of your impeccable decorating or cooking skills.

I attempted to illustrate this idea by bringing together materials and elements that represent what this interaction might feel like for your guest. In the presence of your hospitality, they feel safe to unpack their proverbial baggage. They can enjoy themselves, even in the presence of their "dirty laundry" because yours is scattered about the room as well. In both the literal and figurative sense, biblical hospitality means an open door for all without feeling the need to apologize for things being out of sorts. Just as this artwork was built in layers, some neatly formed and others torn away, we are called to do the hard work to peel back the layers of expectation in both ourselves and others in an attempt to be comfortable and confident in the beauty of our normalcy.

The top layer of this piece is an invitation to "break bread." Although this saying is a reference to Holy Communion, it is more commonly used to refer to simply sharing a meal without the implications of salvation. Over the years, I have seen friends and coworkers go from disagreements and shouting matches to "breaking bread" together. That kind of love and acceptance - to recognize the past, present, and future of a person and still invite them to sit at your table - is what biblical hospitality is all about. Much like the Last Supper, our desire is to see our guests to the door in hopes that our hospitality has instilled in them a feeling of worthiness and the confidence and renewed spirit to continue the good work, both intrinsically and outwardly.

The title was inspired by a place in my hometown in backwoods Georgia - a little place called "Jip's Sit a Spell." You see, in the Deep South, the idea of biblical hospitality often begins with the words "Come on and sit a spell." For decades, this humble storefront in my two-traffic-light hometown served as a respite for old white-haired men that needed a place to simply exist. No expectations. No pressure. No pomp and circumstance. These men could (and would!) sometimes sit for hours just watching the cars go by. At times they were silent and at times they were cutting up. I'm sure there were times they had disagreements and left mad. But the next day they'd be right back in the same spot in need of another recharge and the presence of people that allowed them the freedom to just be. Though Jip's no longer exists, I pray that my home, my office, even my car can all be open invitations to anyone to come and "Sit a Spell."



# SOMETIMES JUST A HUG...

Pen and ink

BY ANDY WALLACE

**PRACTICING  
HOSPITALITY**

When I think of what hospitality in our church looks like, the first person that comes to my mind is Marilyn. For years, Marilyn has stood at the base of the staircase in the Narthex of the Sanctuary giving out hugs to anyone and everyone who will receive one. And these are not your basic "I'm doing this because somebody said it would be a good idea to do" hugs. These are "I haven't seen you since college!!!" hugs. These are "Prodigal Son" hugs. These are Jesus approved, honest, sincere hugs that make you want to come back for seconds. It is an act like this that makes our church authentic. It is an honest and graceful action behind the statement that we are an open, inclusive, welcoming church. Thank you, Marilyn, for my hug.



# A SHINING LIGHT

Pen and ink

BY ANDY WALLACE

**PRACTICING  
HOSPITALITY**

I still remember the first day I walked through the doors of the Narthex and into our beautiful Sanctuary. I admired the architectural magnificence from the outside and appreciated the signs and banners that hung around the property but as the saying goes, "Here's the church and here's the steeple but open the doors and look at the people" was so true. The First Church family and their warmth, hospitality, realness, inclusivity, and commitment to social justice was just what the doctor ordered for me. First Church, in my mind, was that light on a lampstand for ALL to see and its unwavering message of Love totally warmed my heart. I am so proud and honored to be part of such a special place.



# A WIDE WELCOME

Quilted wall hanging

BY CAROL YORK

**PRACTICING  
HOSPITALITY**

I wanted to quilt a wall hanging for the church and I came upon this image of Jesus standing at the Sea of Galilee with his arms outstretched greeting the rising sun. I loved the colors radiating from the sun and it reminded me of a rainbow and its promise of security and love. It was important to me to depict Jesus in darker hues to honor his authentic ethnicity of being Middle Eastern instead of the often whitewashed images of Jesus. To me the piece embodies generous hospitality as Jesus stretches out his arms in a wide welcome to all.



# DIVERSITY IN NATURE

Knitted afghan

**BY THE KNITTING CIRCLE**

(MARNIE BROWN, CATHY IVEY, JANE MILLEN,  
JENNY WALKER, AND CHARLOTTE PEVERLY)

**EMBODYING  
DIVERSITY**

We are all part of God's glorious diverse creation. As we began our art project representing diversity, we started our afghan with skeins of blended wool yarn. Through the hands of many individual knitters we designed different blocks with very diverse patterns. Our patterns included the Candle Tree, Valentine Hearts, Flame Chevron, Staghorn Cable, Moss Panels, and Turtle Check. The yarn was a variety of colors - plum, purple, light and dark green, dusty rose and heather beige - worked on circular and straight knitting needles. Stockinette, garter, seed, moss, box, and cable stitches were used to create the different panels and these panels were woven together to make one diverse afghan. From all these differences our afghan became a unified creation. A creation that embodies God's creation to be celebrated, enjoyed, and welcoming to all.

Our knitting group would like to dedicate this project to the memory of Mia Cather. Mia was a long time member of Birmingham First United Methodist Church and a wonderfully productive knitter. It was only natural that she would open her home to begin a Prayer Shawl Ministry for the church. For many years, a group met in Mia's home and she guided members in learning to knit or in honing their skills.



# EMBODYING DIVERSITY

Photography

BY BERNIE HARDY

**EMBODYING  
DIVERSITY**

When asked to provide artwork with the theme of embodying diversity, I envisioned using photos of people that I had in my portfolio against a background of varying color. I wanted the people in the poster to be diverse in age, color, and ethnicity and I wanted them to be people of strong character. For example, the elderly woman in the upper left corner lived on the island of Rhodes in the Aegean Sea. She used a walker to get around, and did not have much materially, but she carried herself with dignity and was glad to allow us to tour her small house, which was immaculately clean and well-ordered.

I found a quote from Maya Angelou about diversity that I thought was very appropriate to First Church and that provided the message that I wanted to convey.

The background photo is of a tulip bed at the Sarah Duke Gardens on the campus of Duke University in Durham, NC.

The people that are overlaid on top of the tulip bed include:

Nikki Giovanni, distinguished poet, writer, civil rights activist, and college professor at Virginia Tech

A friend of mine dressed as the Bethlehem innkeeper for a church event

My wife Cynthia

My mother, Evelyn Hardy

A current member of First Church - guess who that might be!

Eight other individuals that performed at or attended rodeos, parades, public park events, or did work at my house in North Carolina



# I AM THE VINE

Photography

BY JANE MCKENZIE

**EMBODYING  
DIVERSITY**

Jesus said, *"I am the Vine; you are the branches."* John 15:5  
The branches bear fruit in many colors, sizes, shapes, and patterns...  
All part of the same life-giving Vine.

Porcelain Berry is a perennial, woody vine in the grape family. Its berries change color from light green, light blue and dark blue to pink, red, and purple.

The Vine embodies diversity.



# RAINBOWS AND RESURRECTION

Stained glass

BY JUDE AND ROB RODWELL

**EMBODYING  
DIVERSITY**

The title of our piece is “Rainbows and Resurrection” and it aligns with the “Inclusive Community” and “Diversity” priorities, for the following reasons:

The butterfly is the symbol of resurrection, transformation, and rebirth. Of course, this includes the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But also, how many of us have experienced resurrections in our own lives: certainly when loss becomes gain, but also when discovering our own truths and committing to them, and accepting and respecting the truths of all those around us.

In addition, the mix of vibrant colors in our piece symbolizes the colors of the rainbow. It is the symbol of Pride, representing the diversity of humanity and the bonding together of all to form the lovely arch of a rainbow. It also represents the beautiful human traits of hope and promise. I think we all experience uplifted spirits when we see a rainbow.





# QUERY CAFÉ

POSCA paint markers

BY JON ANDREW CASTLEBERRY

**EMBRACING  
TOUGH QUESTIONS**

During one of my first visits to First Church, the sermon topic was the virgin birth and its different interpretations. Big sloppy tears slid off my face. After years of being told to blindly believe and to push doubt aside, I was now in a safe space that embraced tough questions, engaged in critical thinking, and comfortably sat in the mystery of God. I've never been to a cat café or played with a room full of puppies, but that's what comes to mind when I think about how this community makes space to interact with questions.



# THE LEADER

Wood carving

BY JIM BROWN

**EMBRACING  
TOUGH QUESTIONS**

At birth infant children are completely dependent on us for everything. Soon we are proud to teach them to walk. Theirs is then a long journey to independence. When they become teens they usually strive to show us their independence but many of us want to hold on (and assert our so-called authority). We don't want to let go. Whether we want it or not our children become self-sufficient. We then lead parallel lives. But aging changes everything.

Sooner or later the young take over. Physical frailty, dementia, or even death removes our personal control. I try to believe that I can be autonomous but my young great granddaughter can quickly change that idea. As Isaiah said, "And a little child will lead them." I realize that the quote is about the "Peaceable Kingdom" and not directly applicable but it fits the title I assigned to this art-piece.

At another level we should think over our beliefs. The certainties of my conservative Southern Baptist raising are less certain now. To take full ownership of a belief it should withstand examination. I want the sermons I hear to challenge me, to force me to reexamine (hold on, let go, or modify) a belief.



# TOUGH QUESTIONS AT THE DOOR

Allegorical poem

BY MARY EVELYN HOLLOWAY

**EMBRACING  
TOUGH QUESTIONS**

"Tough Questions at the Door" is an allegorical poem that features a narrator and the interrogative pronouns: What, Who, When, Where, Why and How as the additional characters. The poem is meant to encourage our embracing of difficult questions our world poses for us and to challenge us not to settle for answers that may be easy and expedient, but not necessarily right.