

# The Big Story of Scripture

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A Special thanks to all who were involved in making the Story come to life.

- Dina Pappas
- Mitzi Barker
- Bobbie Barnack
- Jim Pappas
- Jeanne South
- Jacque Starr
- Debbie Wall
- Linda Reynolds
- Carla Eisberg

Most of these artists have been sent to serve God in other places

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Believing that God has gifted us with a diversity of gifts and that artistry in fabric is one of those gifts, a group of people began planning an expression of the Bible's panoramic story when our church building was newly constructed.

Clearly, our church is blessed with a number of people who love to quilt. The four panels you see on the wall behind you depict the four movements of Scripture. As we rededicate them, we ask you to appreciate their artistry and engage the story.



The basic ingredients of each panel are often mentioned in the Bible: sky, water, mountains, and trees. Notice how these elements change in each panel. Also, look for the mood changes brought about through color. Though there are no humans shown in these panels, we remember that creation itself is part of the biblical story and cries out for the fullness of the kingdom of God. (Romans 8:18-24)

The quilt blocks which make up the sky/backdrop for each panel come from a pattern called "Jacob's Ladder" from the Bible story of Jacob's dream. In his dream Jacob meets God and awakens exclaiming, "Surely God is in this place!" (Genesis 28:10-22). This expression is foundational to these quilts, as is the part of the project that had the broadest participation from the congregation...the voice from all of us saying "surely God is in this place".



### 1<sup>st</sup> Panel...Creation.

This panel depicts a time and place in this world which was full of pure goodness, joy and peace. It was a time when God and his creation, including people, were not separated by sin. In this world which we long for, there were two special trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:9). This is where the Bible begins.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel...Redemption.

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son (Galatians 4:4). Notice the cross in the form of a tree. The Old Testament says "anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse (Deuteronomy 21:21). Jesus Christ, the perfect One, was cursed for us, taking our sins upon himself, that we might gain the tree of life. Also, the new trees represent new life, and the birds are red, a reminder of his blood shed for us. The water is now flowing again. This panel is where God's people find themselves today. Still in this world, but with new life, new hope, and new love!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel...Fall.

Created to be in relationship with God and to enjoy his creation, man and woman instead chose sin and death. This is referred to as "The Fall". This panel shows the results of this choice on our world: goodness is obscured. Corrupted by sin, everything has a different hue. The fallen tree speaks of our fallenness. The river is no longer flowing, but frozen; it is a darker world. But in the corner, there is a sign of hope and expectation captured in the blossoming fireweed. This panel presents the Old Testament and our lives before we experience the fullness of God in the gospel.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Panel...Restoration.

The last chapter of the Bible speaks of a time when the crystal clear river of life will flow abundantly. The tree of life spans this river bearing twelve fruits. This is a time when God alone will reign, when there will be no more night, when all will see Jesus as he is. He will provide light to this new creation reigning forever and ever (Revelation 22:1-5). All creation looks forward to this time (Romans 8:20-22).



These four panels give us the panoramic view of the Biblical story, from Genesis to Revelation. This unified Biblical narrative provides the framework of the Biblical Worldview which reveals Christ's mission and that of his Church. At Community Covenant we are a family on mission together with Christ in the center. Our mission is to bring Christ's hope, healing, and wholeness to our community and to our world. These panels are here to surround us and to remind us of the story we find ourselves in the midst of, a story of unbounded love that flows like a river out of the heart of God. We are truly thankful to God and to those who gave so much to this project.