



at the Nelson - Atkins Museum

4245 Oak St
Kansas City, MO

Wed: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Thu: 10 a.m.—9 p.m.
Fri: 10 a.m.—9 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Mon & Tues: CLOSED

Welcome to COMMUNITY Covenant Church's Advent 2019 Prayer Walk. at the Nelson.

This prayer walk is intended for anytime during the season.

"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."

- Matthew 6:6 from The Message

Take this time to prayerfully meditate on the masks that we each wear and the challenge of being an ambassador of authenticity in a world full of facade.

Go by yourself or with a group. If with a group, this prayer walk was meant to be done quietly.

Snap a pic and share it on our church Facebook page!

Be sure to pick up a map on the way in. This will help you a great deal as all room doors in the museum are marked by a letter and number in the top corner. Elevators are available throughout the museum if stairs are difficult. You may also go to the information desk and request a golf cart ride :) Seats and restrooms are available throughout the museum as well for your comfort and convenience.

STOP #1:
Madonna and Child
by Hayne-de-Bruxelles
Location : P7



Prayer Prompt: First we must set our intention. Read the description of this painting. Take in for a moment that this may have been a painting (a copy of the original) by Luke himself! One who walked with Jesus, knew all the characters in this crazy story, and died for this crazy story.

Why would he do that if it wasn't true?

Pray that The Holy Spirit would guide you in setting your intent for this prayer walk to remove this Advent season from any other distractions and focus it back on this crazy but true story of the coming Messiah.

STOP #2:
Saint John The Baptist In the Wilderness
by Caravaggio
Location: P15



Prayer Prompt: John the Baptist came declaring HOPE. What gives you hope?

What strikes you about Caravaggio's rendering of John?

Caravaggio was known for (infamous for) using vagrants and prostitutes to model for his paintings of biblical characters. He most likely did this as an intentional shake of the fist at the institution but, regardless, as you look at John doesn't it stir you?

He was just a boy! A dirty boy living out in the wilderness eating locusts and honey and listening to The Lord. It's especially stirring when juxtaposed with the powerful and "put together" Roman Empire.

Yet this boy is the vehicle of HOPE for God's people. Meant to clear the path for Jesus.

STOP #3:
Elijah Visited by an Angel
by Magnasco
Location: P16



Prayer Prompt: Eugene Peterson's version of The Sermon on the Mount includes this, "*You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of Him*".

Elijah had been running for his life and now he was tired. This angel comes to him and gives him strength for the journey but also gives him PEACE.

When was the last time you felt peace-full? Full of peace. Why is it that it takes chaos to sometimes remind us of how much we need peace?

As you look at this image think about the Shepherds out watching their flock at night. They probably thought they understood peace pretty well. Then the sky lit up with Angels and their message was, "*Fear not*". They were about to learn what peace really was.

Are you open to living a peace filled life? Are you open to Jesus redefining peace for you?

STOP #4:
Two-Tiered Still Life with Fruit and Sunset Landscape
by Roesen
Location: 215



Prayer Prompt: JOY is a choice. Have you ever considered that?

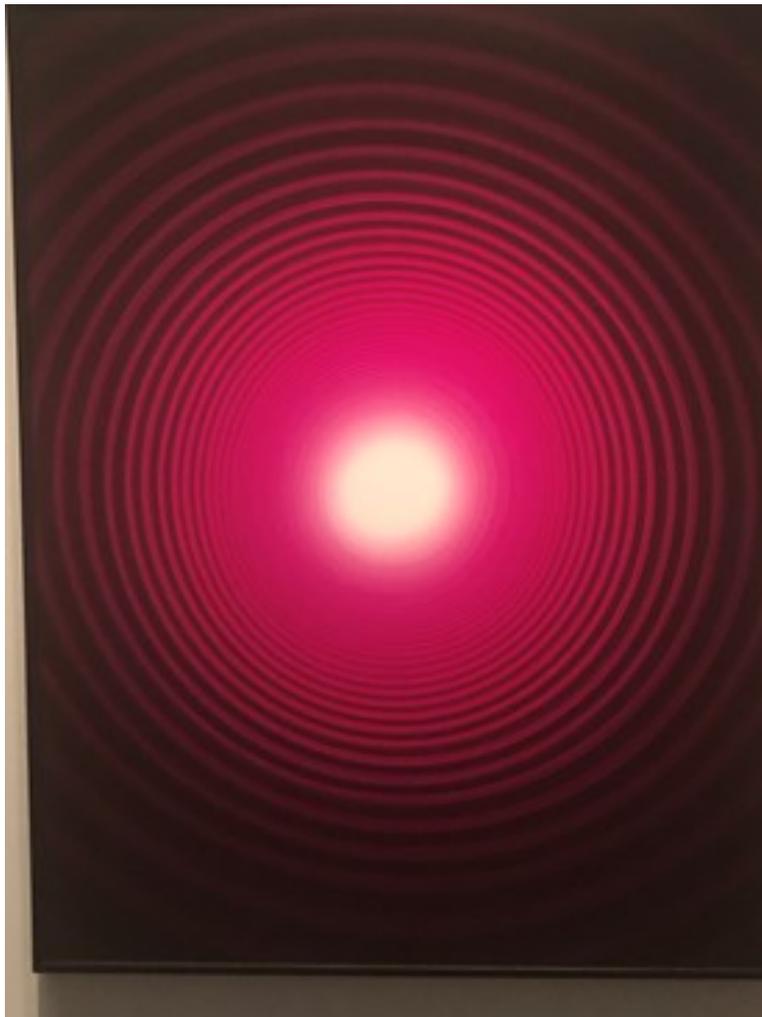
Look at this painting. In the foreground is a beautiful and bountiful spread and yet your eye might be drawn to other things: withering leaves or the dark and almost ominous colors of the sun setting from behind.

There were so many reasons for the characters in the nativity to let their JOY be stolen. The uncertainties ahead for Mary and Joseph, the evil intentions of King Herod, etc. Yet they didn't allow their JOY to be stolen away when they laid their eyes on this promised child.

What is attempting to steal your JOY this season?

What does it mean for you to choose JOY?

STOP #5:
Untitled
by Adam Fuss
Location: L9



Prayer Prompt: As you look at this photograph think about the words beginning John's gospel, "*the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.*"

It may have only been the Magi around the manger who truly knew who this child was and what he meant for all mankind. It's fitting that the light spreading in this photo is a warm violet/red color that contrasts against the black. Our LORD chose not to overcome evil with power as this world understood and still understands it. He chose to overcome evil and death with LOVE.

So the Magi came with their gifts and simply adored him. Let us pray during this season as we celebrate God's LOVE that we might fall deeper in LOVE with him. Let's come and adore!

FEEL FREE TO LINGER AS LONG AS YOU NEED.
THANK YOU FOR WALKING ALONGSIDE IN PRAYER.
PEACE BE WITH YOU.