

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

WEEK 5: LUKE 19:1-10 FAITH IS... BEING CHANGED

SERIES VISUAL ARTS

What does Pop Art have to do With the Gospel?

As we were planning for this series, "Faith is..." we noticed how frequently Jesus challenged the traditions and conventions of his culture:

- who returns to say thanks? A Samaritan!
- who makes a stubborn judge give in? A widow who won't take no for an answer!
- who is forgiven, blessed, honored and changed by Jesus? Nobody you would expect.

Obviously Jesus was working with a different set of values. The throw-aways of his day were those he chose to dine with, to heal, to bless. He turned his world upside down.

The artists of the pop art movement presented a similar challenge to the institutions of fine art by featuring styles and imagery from common advertising, comic books, and mundane cultural objects in their work. They challenged conventional ideas of beauty and opened the doors of the exclusively elite art world to pop culture and the masses using humor and irony and familiar ("common") images. This brash approach to art was at great odds with the prevailing sensibility that, by its nature, art dealt with "profound" expressions or ideas.

Furthermore, pop artists' idealization of mass-production, which theoretically would allow everyone access to their art, undermined the business model of the gallery and museum as curators of taste and brokers of quality.

THIS WEEK'S ARTIST: KEITH HARING

Keith Haring was born in 1958 in Reading, PA, and was raised in Kutztown. He developed a love for drawing at a very early age, learning basic cartooning skills from his father and from the popular culture such as Dr. Seuss and Walt Disney. In the mid 70's he moved to NYC after high school and became part of a vibrant art scene where he developed his distinct style. His reputation grew in the 80's to international recognition.

In 1986 Haring opened the Pop Shop, a retail store selling items bearing his images to allow people greater access to his work at a low cost. The shop received criticism from many in the art world, however Haring was committed to reaching as wide an audience as possible, and received strong support for his project from friends, fans and mentors including Andy Warhol. He died of AIDS at age 31, leaving the Keith Haring Foundation to continue providing funding and imagery to AIDS work and children's programs.

Today's theme art, "Jesus and Zacchaeus" is a clear homage to Haring's distinct, simple, line-based style. As Haring was criticized for wanting to give the broader public access to his art, Jesus received criticism for spending his time with the likes of Zacchaeus.

Questions of who has earned or deserved such attention bring us to the heart of Jesus's message: he saw the value in each person, and they were changed in gratitude for his love and grace.

NEXT SUNDAY: "FAITH IS... BEING TESTED"

Almost every week we hear of wars and insurrections, famines and plagues and earthquakes. In some parts of the world, people are being arrested for their faith. It is easy to conclude that the world is falling apart.

But Jesus warns his followers to not be led astray, to not despair, to not fear. In fact, in moments such as these, when you are forced to defend your faith, he says he will give you words and wisdom. He says that you are under his protection. He says you won't be sorry; you'll be saved!

In Luke, these words come not long before Jesus is arrested. *For you, does that make them more believable or less so?*

Faith is...



Zac - chae - us climbed up in the tree: Je -



sus was on his way! Zac - chae - us' life was



changed for good When faith came home to stay.

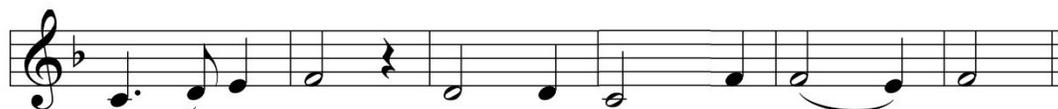
Refrain



Faith is our hope; Faith is our strength; Faith per -



sists when shak - en. When we fall, faith



lifts us up; Faith in Christ's sal - va - tion.

TEXT: Amy Parker
MUSIC: Sheldon W. Sorge, 2000
Music © 2000 Sheldon W. Sorge

MY SOUL THIRSTS
CM with refrain

Fall Worship Series "Faith is..."

ART POSTERS AVAILABLE

The original art posters created for our "Faith is..." Fall Worship Series are available for purchase. In fact, because of a mix-up at the printer, we have two sets of the posters — one set is on mat paper (those hung in the sanctuary) and the other on glossy. Some have already been claimed, but there is at least one of each design available. The cost is \$40/each and proceeds will go into our worship arts program budget to fund future arts events. Contact Amy Parker to claim your poster!