

The Way Altar Frontal

The altar frontal called *The Way* was created by Joan Garner of Kent, England, an internationally known artist in creative stitchery.

The frontal creation was commissioned by Reverend Edward F. Ostertag, when rector at St. Luke's. The frontal took 8 years to complete and is made from 50 different fabrics from around the world, all natural fibers. When completed, it came to the attention of the United States Ambassador to the Court of Saint James, who requested that it be exhibited at the U.S. Embassy in London for one month. After the exhibition, it finally arrived at St. Lukes.

The Artist's Interpretation of *The Way*

When approaching the frontal, the artist hopes you will be conscious of a cross shape, which carries a message for everyone. There is an intensely light place in the center of this, and as one approaches, gold and silver threads will be noticed coming in from the rest of the design and seemingly drawn more closely and irrevocably into the center.

This expresses a belief that no matter where life leads us, or what we make of it, we shall eventually be drawn into the one vortex of light and love.

The rest of the frontal design develops this idea more fully. The mountain (reminiscent of Long's Peak and Forest Canyon) symbolizes the rocky places of life. Tackled rightly, they are full of sunshine; yet the shadows too are beautiful -- there are wide open views and bright opportunities with the responsibility and possible danger that goes with them.

Beyond is an indefinite country, expressing loneliness and perplexity. There is a faint glow in the distance, guiding those with faith, and who will come suddenly into the light at the back of the mountain if they let this faint glow draw them on.

Then there is the great city. The silhouette is evocative of Canterbury Cathedral, a symbol of the Anglican Communion, and of Manhattan Island, the two expressing spiritual and material power. These images link our own two countries but also everyone's spiritual life.

Hard up against these silhouettes is a forest of Colorado's own trees, to remind us that we too often cannot see the forest for the trees, and must stand back to bring things into perspective.

Beyond are the oceans and distant places, expressing adventure and the unknown; our long journeys, partings and homecomings. Finally the lower border is flowery, perhaps representing a happy childhood.

-- C.P. Patrick Reid