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VISUALS FOR WORSHIP



Elizabeth Steele Halstead



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Contents

Preface	7
Opening of Worship: Alpha and Omega	10
Confession and Assurance: Cedar of Lebanon	12
Proclaiming the Word: Cross (Ionic/Celtic)	14
Prayers of the People: Kyrie eleison	16
Offering: Hands	18
Baptism: Stream	20
Profession of Faith and Remembrance of Baptism: Fountain	22
The Lord's Supper: Wheat and Cup	24
Closing of Worship: Chi Rho	26
Creation: Tree of Life	28
Providence: Circle	30
Thanksgiving: Harvest Wheat	32
Advent: Branch, Stump of Jesse	34
Christmas: Sun of Righteousness	36

Epiphany: Cross and Sun Rays 38
Baptism of Our Lord: River 40
Transfiguration: Three Tabernacles/Tents 42
Ash Wednesday: Cross of Wood 44
Lent: Cross (Ethiopian) 46
Passion/Palm Sunday: Palm Branch 48
Maundy Thursday: Chalice and Cross 50
Good Friday: Crown of Thorns 52
Easter: The Empty Tomb 54
Ascension of Our Lord: The Ascension 56
Pentecost: Seven Doves 58
Christ the King: Throne 60
Trinity Sunday: Trefoil and Triquetra 62
Unity of the Church: Vine and Branches 64
Communion of the Saints: Columns with Capstone 66

Bibliography 69
Scripture Index 71
General Index 75

CD Contents 77



P r e f a c e

Churches today are renewing their use of symbols or expanding the occasions in which symbols are used in their congregations. As they do so the symbols may become more familiar but are not always more understood. This book is designed to reintroduce some of the imagery, metaphors, and motifs of Scripture. I hope that in integrating image and text, appreciation for the depth and diversity of Scripture's visual images will be employed in worship and other church settings with greater contextual understanding.

The book is laid out in the same format as *The Worship Sourcebook* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books, 2004). I have designed one symbol for each section of this wonderful resource, to complement an element of worship, a theme, or a season of the church year. Using these two resources side by side will enable you to incorporate visual art in the worship service you are planning, enriching worship through sight as well as sound. The designs can be placed on the cover of service bulletins, within the written liturgy,

or on a large screen display. This resource could also be used in the planning stages as a devotional tool to expand your insights or gain a richer understanding of a passage or theme.

You might also use these images for illustrations in adult Sunday school or small group study and meditation; on cards, posters, brochures, newsletter layouts, or calendars; or for occasions such as weddings or funerals.

The individual images can be downloaded from the CD for the best reproduction of the print. To aid the viewers' understanding, the corresponding texts may also be downloaded and placed within a design layout. You may use the descriptions as they are written or adapt them to correspond with a specific passage of Scripture, a prayer, a song, or a creed. This will enhance continuity between the image and the context in which it is used. On the CD I have used one symbol, in a variety of ways, to help you envision possible design layouts or projected PowerPoint layouts (When using any of the images please include the following acknowledgment: "Linoleum block prints by Elizabeth Steele Halstead. Reprinted by permission from *Visuals for Worship*, © 2006, Faith Alive Christian Resources.")

The images are original linoleum block prints resulting from a print-making process in which an image is drawn on a block of wood covered with a thin layer of linoleum, and then hand-carved to expose areas that will be white. Ink is rolled onto the block, covering the surface not cut away. Paper made from the mulberry tree is laid on top and hand

rubbed with a Japanese barren or wooden spoon. In transferring the ink to the paper the resulting image is a reflection of the design placed on the block.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Steele Halstead
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Calvin Institute of Christian Worship
June 2005



ALPHA AND OMEGA

OPENING OF WORSHIP

The alpha (A) and the omega (W) are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The Alpha and Omega (A W) is an early Christian inscription, found in the Roman catacombs, signifying God's eternal being and reminding us of our limited understanding of a God who is without beginning or end. This God is the eternal One whom we worship and praise as we gather together.

Scripture References

Isaiah 44:6
 Revelation 1:8
 Psalm 86:8-10

Other Occasions for Use

Confession and Assurance,
 Proclaiming the Word, Profession
 of Faith and Remembrance of
 Baptism, Closing of Worship,
 Creation, all seasons (especially
 Advent and Easter), Weddings

