Listening to the Lord sometimes involves receiving words, impressions and/or mental pictures about what, and sometimes, how to draw or paint. The picture may be for the encouragement and instruction of one particular person or a group of people. The same piece of art may bring a wide variety of responses, but one hopes that an awe and respect for God and His creation would be one of the reactions. The term ‘prophetic art’ is used when the artist is able to capture and forward what God seems to be saying, His heart, His intent for His people. In this case, the observer should evaluate whether the message portrayed by the painting corresponds to the love and established truth of God as proclaimed in the Holy Bible.

After completing the above painting, I recorded these words in my journal that seem to correspond to various parts of the work and might be meaningful to someone:

Fly free. You are released.
Ride the wave of the Spirit.
My light and love shine on you.
Trust Me to guide you.
Help is coming to aid you.
Peace abides.
The Rock guards your path.
Beauty and fragrance abide.
The waters are safe and glisten with My light.
The covering of the clouds is beautiful and
Shine My light back upon you.
Trust Me to take care of you,
Your Father in heaven. Amen.
Sometimes paintings help to illustrate teachings of the Bible. Simple brush strokes can make understandable symbols that the Holy Spirit can use to awaken a heart and mind to the wonders of what God has done or continues to do.

Isaiah 7: 14 states that the Lord gave a message through the prophet that the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call Him Emmanuel – which means, “God with us.”

Matthew 1:18-25 tells that this prophecy was fulfilled through Mary who conceived Jesus of the Holy Spirit.

When we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, God sends the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. Galatians 4:6
The Holy Spirit links us with God and empowers us to accomplish what He intends. We are to learn to be alert to the many ways He offers direction. Whether one goes to the far reaches of the world or stays a lifetime on familiar ground, the Lord offers guidance to those who do not neglect Him, but choose to live to honor God. We have the privilege of going forth in love and joy and holy wisdom, bringing His light and truth to others. Be alert for His guidance and timing and walk under His anointing to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving His people. So be it. Amen.
This painting refers to having an open heart to receive a spiritual anointing from God upon ones head, shoulders and hands. At times, it is possible to sense the Spirit of the Lord as if standing in the rain. The Holy Spirit lives within the believer and may come upon the believer. Evidence of the Spirit within can shine forth for others to observe.
The Holy Spirit moves in mysterious ways to make the will and power of God known. The reaction of the people may be to receive Him or to try to hide from Him.

Heavenly Father, may Your kingdom come, Your will be done. Flood the nations with Your grace and glory. Teach us, step by step, to honor You by our actions. Great is Thy faithfulness. Come like a mighty wave. Wash us, cleanse us, purify us so that You may trust us with Your truth and love, resulting in harmony, unity, being one in Christ, called together to worship and adore You. Thank You for Your presence, closeness, Your holy touch. So be it. Amen.
One day, while sitting on the prayer porch at Community of the Cross, I was touched by the beauty of the sunlight filtering through the trees. I thought that the scene was not unlike the truth, the light and love of God which flows onto us, into us and can reflect from us to others.
Autumn Colors in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina

We can learn much from observing God’s creation: Psalm 24:1 explains that the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 states that there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.
Falling Leaves
Twisting, turning, fluttering down through the rays of sunlight,
the leaves glisten and bounce against the ground,
lift again and float down to settle by the curb.
The freedom of their flight lifts my spirit, giving joy to my soul.
How short the season of disconnection from the tree and falling in a blaze of color
to become a pile to be reckoned with, raked, stored or burned or hauled away.
Then the trees stand bare and ready for the winter’s onslaught of wind, cold, even snow, sleet.
In their starkness they store life that will spring forth when the warming sun turns the naked
limbs into bulging buds, lengthened to twigs to support new leaves, new life, new beauty.
Thank You, Lord, for this visual reminder of the gift of life, the changing seasons:
shedding the old, storing the substance of life and then budding again
as nurtured by You and Your sun.
The Bible records many instances of Jesus appearing to people after His death and resurrection. He made Himself known to His disciples to assure them of His love and forgiveness. He helped the men walking to Emmaus understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:13-49)

In many ways, Jesus makes Himself known in these days also. John 14:21 explains that whoever obeys the commands of Jesus is the one who loves Him and he will be loved by God, and Jesus will make Himself known to him.

Trust that He will choose a way to make Himself known to you in response to your love and obedience.
A mental picture or vision may illustrate the love of the Lord for us and His desire to teach us His Way.

An Invitation

Come along with Me.
I have much to show you, to teach you.
Wait beside Me.
Open your eyes and heart to see as I see, to go where I go,
to see the need, the broken hearts, lives, hopes.
Trust Me to teach you how to respond.
Trust Me to give you the love, the words, the caring hands.
Seek Me often, come along with Me to help My people.
Isaiah had a life changing encounter with God. He saw Him seated on a high throne with the train of His robe filling the temple. Above Him seraphs were calling to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty the whole earth is full of His glory.” Isaiah’s reaction to seeing the King, the Almighty Lord, was to be overcome with his own sinfulness, especially the words he had spoken and the words of the people among whom he lived.

Isaiah chapter 6 tells about how his guilt was taken away and when the Lord asked who He could send to forward His message to the people, Isaiah could answer, “Here am I. Send me!”

The Lord is still calling out to individuals to go with His message to the people.
Isaiah 35:8-10 explains about a highway called the Way of Holiness for those who walk in the Way. Only the redeemed and ransomed of the Lord will be found there. They will enter Zion singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Sorrow will flee and be replaced by gladness.
Breaking the chains of captivity to sin can happen through:

- Repentance - turning from unworthy activities to surrender to Jesus as Lord and Savior, worshiping and praising Him
- Honoring Him by accepting His guidance, love, healing, hope
- Using ones life to serve God and His beloved people.