Refer to this link for an example of last year's write-up: https://churchrez.org/rezartsfestival/

Theme: Immeasurably More: Ask & Receive

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" -Ephesians 3:20

At Church of the Resurrection we have been in a season of asking God for more. This year our call for art will continue to lean into the open and expectant posture of asking. We would like to invite you to draw, write, paint, sculpt, knit, sew (and more!) around the theme of asking and receiving from a good and generous God. We invite you to consider God's generosity and our creative generativity in Him.

You can choose to approach the theme of Ask and Receive from one of several different angles. You may opt to recall a memory from the past. You may want to hope for the future. Or you may desire to dig into Scripture and let that inform your creative work.

Look back

Remember testimonies in your own life or in the lives of others. Read and recall stories in the Bible and in the lives of Saints both past and present. Remember times when God has given more than His people have asked or imagined.

Consider these examples to get you started:

- Remember a testimony in your own life when God answered your prayer in surprising ways.

- Reflect on stories like the raven delivering bread to Elijah in the wilderness in 1 Kings 17.

- Think about events like God giving his people Manna in the wilderness and the way he continues this story by giving us Himself, the true Bread of Life, which we celebrate every Sunday in the Eucharist.

Look forward

We live in a world full of division, war, heartbreak, homesickness, scarcity, and fear. And yet, as children of a good Father we have the opportunity to ask for good for ourselves, others, and our world. We, like Esther, are here "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Our making can be a call to One who desires to reveal the depth of His love for us in a lonely and disillusioned time.

Consider these questions to get you started:

- Ask yourself, "What am I hungry for?" Let that yearning be the start of your making.

- Where do you or your loved ones need healing or restoration? Allow this prayer to serve as the start of your making.

- Consider the redemptive arc of Scripture: where do you see the New Heavens breaking into your everyday experience?

Dig deeply into Scripture

Step back to absorb the sheer magnitude of Paul's doxological outburst of praise in Ephesians 3:20. Delve into the three opening chapters of Ephesians, which lead up to v. 20, which show how the lavish, surprising, powerful, underserved, stunningly beautiful gospel of Jesus was conceived and brought into being by God Himself. The God who saved us apart from our works has now made us his *workmanship* (the Greek word *poiema*–poem or work of art), and called us to a life of good work (Ephesians 2:1).

So, if God did all of that by his grace and by his power, he is truly the God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. And that power is now, in this very present moment, at work within us. Now, if God did this already, if it's already done, we must ask: what else can He do?

Ask the Holy Spirit

Invite the prompting of the Holy Spirit and ask Him to lead you in the theme. You may want to share your ideas with a trusted friend or family member. Then write, draw, paint, illustrate, sculpt, knit, photograph, or make wherever He guides you! Whether you consider yourself an artist or not, God can use even the humblest of beginnings in surprising ways. Just ask!

Our work together will culminate in a grand Festival, a party to celebrate God's generosity and His power at work within us.

Creative Prompts:

- God often answers a prayer in an unexpected way. Do you have a favorite story where this happened? Find a way to illustrate it or tell a story about it.

- Consider the lives and stories of some of your favorite Prophets and Saints where they have asked something from God and he has answered with more. Respond to their stories in works or painting, poetry, sculpture, or any medium you choose!

- Consider your own story, where have you seen God's generosity in your life? Has he answered a prayer? Has he spoken to you in an unexpected way? Has he led you next to streams of living water even amid dark times? Respond to these memories in painting, poetry, sculpture, or any medium you choose.

- God often gives us longings as a way to point us to him. Consider some of your deep seeded longings and use this as a starting place for creating.

- God gives immeasurably more in nature: thousands of tiny seeds from a single stock of goldenrod. These seeds are then dispersed by the grace of other things: birds, wind, fire, insects. They are grown by the grace of soil and water, warmth and oxygen. Consider the fecundity and grace in nature and make some artwork with this in your mind, your heart, and your attentive gaze.

- God gives "immeasurably more" in Scripture: for example, we read that God promised Abraham and Sarah descendants like the stars in the sky and the sand on the shore. Think about the way God gives more than we can even ask or imagine in the stories in Scripture.

- In October our church prayed together continually for 21 days. Make something in response to your Prayer 21 experience.

Questions and Creative Prompts for Kids:

- Remember a time when you were surprised by something good. Can you draw a picture about that feeling?

- Think of the story of Joseph. Perhaps you could read it to help remember. In what way did God answer Joseph's prayer with more than he asked for? Can you make this into a picture?

- God promised Abraham that his family would grow to be as many people as the stars in the sky. Think of the last time you looked at the night sky full of stars. Can you draw, paint, sing, or sculpt this memory?

- What was the best gift you have ever received? Can you draw a picture of that time or write about it?

- Look at something very small, but draw or paint it very large. Perhaps you can look at it under a magnifying glass. Notice as many details about it as you can.

Resources for Engaging Kids in Art

- Nature Journaling: Engage with God's creation through creating a nature journal–artistic skills not required! These short videos introduce kids to the practice of nature journalling.

- Picture Study: https://simplycharlottemason.com/store/bible-picture-portfolios/#tab-description
  A practice of incorporating paintings by master artists with Scripture study that teaches children how to closely observe and reflect on beautiful artwork.

  Books for Kids:
  Miss Rumphius Barbara Cooney
  Ish by Peter Reynolds
  Draw by Raúl Colón
  The Forest by Riccardo Bozzi
  Niko Draws A Feeling by Bob Raczka
  Blue by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
  Drawn Together by Minh Lê
  Thank You, Omu! by Oge Mora
  Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña
  The Quiltmaker's Gift by Jeff Brumbeau
  Zero Local: Next Stop: Kindness by Ethan Murrow & Vita Murrow
  Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett

Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming

Resources for Inspiration:

Books:

- *Culture Making* by Andy Crouch
- *Surprised by Joy* by C.S. Lewis
- *Leaf by Niggle* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Walking on Water* by Madeline L'Engle
- Ephesians
- Genesis

Visual Art:

Starry Night by Van Gogh
The Beach at Sainte-Adresse by Monet found at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Van Gogh's *Harvest series*.

Rivers and Tides- a stunning documentary about the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy

The Wild Rumpus - Patric Dougherty

Poems:

Love III George Herbert

Pied Beauty Gerard Manly Hopkins

God's Grandeur Gerard Manly Hopkins

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry.

Whatever is Foreseen in Joy by Wendell Berry

My Work Is Loving The World Mary Oliver

Tree Lucy Shaw

Walking October Lucy Shaw

Make Me A Chalice Abigail Carol

Descending Theology: The Resurrection - Mary Karr

Songs:

The beauty of God

Nothing But Jesus - Steve Williamson
Ancient of Days - CityAlight
Is He Worthy? - Andrew Peterson

Creative process / creation

Alive and Breathing - Matt Maher
When I Hear the Praises Start - Keith Green
With the Wonder - Rich Mullins
New Wine - Brooke Ligertwood (Hillsong)