

Markings/5

June 2012

A collaboration between artist Jamie Treadwell and writer Amin Kurani, for inspiration today.

//The light of goodness

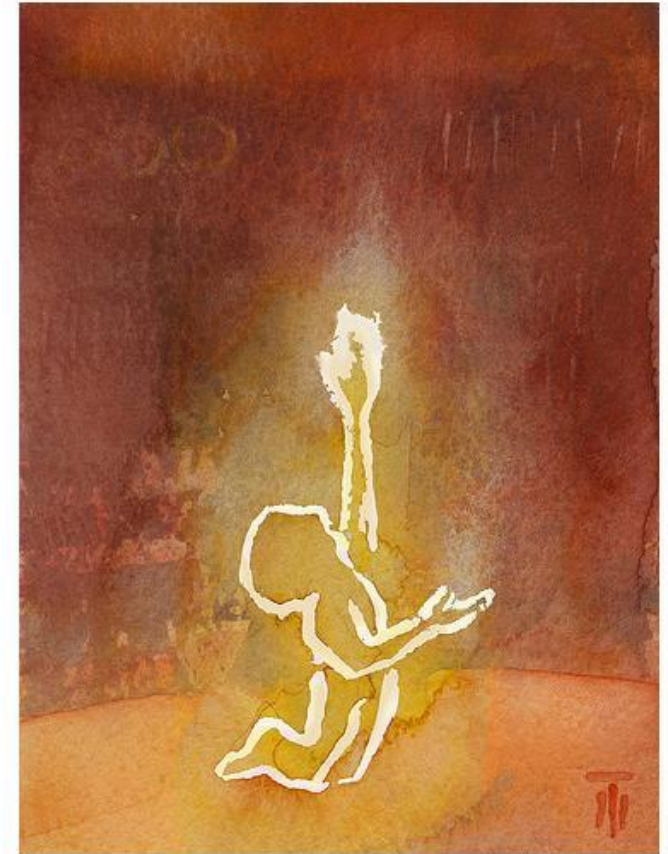
Jamie wrote the following about this painting, inspired by a trip in Spain:

In June 2005 my heart was heavy as I wandered the streets of Bilbao. I had seen the bullet holes on the village churches where neighbours were executed during the civil war. I was sickened by the lies surrounding the massacre in Guernica.

On a dusty patch of grass, I took my watercolours out of my backpack and started the painting. I didn't know where it was going. Then the figure in the centre emerged, a simple figure on his knees, head thrust back, one arm reaching to heaven, the other open, offering himself in weakness, yet also receiving.

Thinking about Jamie's words, I look at the painting afresh and I'm struck first of all by the abject state of the figure before me. He appears almost surrounded by darkness. I think of war, even now threatening my beloved Lebanon. One of war's first casualties is always hope. I imagine a voice telling the man again and again: "Look at how small you are. You can do nothing, and what you do won't matter."

Nevertheless he reaches heavenward. He believes, and a small act is enough to send a flicker in the darkness. Nelson Mandela said: "Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished." The light of goodness stubbornly shines on. Darkness cannot diminish it.



* "Intercessor" by Jamie Treadwell is available as a limited-edition print. Visit www.jamietreadwell.com for the gallery and blog.