



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

AUGUST 17, 2025

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

 The Episcopal
CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774
865-986-2390

www.episcopalloudon.com
#episcopalloudon



GOOD MORNING!

GLORIFYING GOD BY
REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today.

Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the *Hymnal 1982*, the blue books in the pew rack. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com,
email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or
find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a pew card or email office@episcopalloudon.com to be placed on on the weekly email, *Parish Tidings*, for the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:
facebook.com/episcopalloudon.



Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Prelude *(only at 10:30)*

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

St. George's Windsor

Entrance Hymn *(only at 10:30)*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Hymnal 544

All standing

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Gloria *(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

Hymnal S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;

he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;
righteousness, but heard a cry!

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Lector We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.
- 9 You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.
- 12 Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- 14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.
- 15 They burn it with fire like rubbish; *
at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

Sequence Hymn (*only at 10:30*)

I want to walk as a child of the light (verses 1-2)

Hymnal 490

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:49-56

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn (*only at 10:30*)

I want to walk as a child of the light (verse 3)

Hymnal 490

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, Form II

BCP 385

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, sitting, or kneeling as able.
Please add those intercessions and thanksgivings on your heart, silently or
aloud, at the appropriate points in the prayers.*

Lector I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Sean; our Diocesan Bishop, Brian; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. And we remember especially **Jackie C.; J. L.; David H; Becca H.; Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon; and all your children who suffer the effects of war, oppression, or natural disasters.**

Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present.
Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence*

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

BCP 360

Standing as you are able.

Celebrant May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

Offertory Anthem *(sung by the choir)*

As We Worship You, O Lord

The Celebrant invites the people's offerings.

Doxology (*only at 10:30*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

1 Chronicles 29:14

Celebrant For all things come from you, O Lord;
People **and of your own have we given you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

*From Enriching Our Worship, The Standing Liturgical Commission of
the Episcopal Church: New York: Church Publishing, 1997*

Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Hymnal S-120

(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)

Celebrant The Lord be with you,
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Sanctus (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Hymnal S-125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.** (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Hymn (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Hymnal S-161

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Grant us peace.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way.

If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you prefer a blessing.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to be our Guest

Hymnal 306

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements | Blessings of Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Blessing

Post-Communion Hymn *(only at 10:30)*

Fight the good fight with all thy might

Hymnal 562

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude *(only at 10:30)*

Les Commandements de Dieu

Louis Bourgeois

**Flowers today are given to the Glory of God in memory of the birthday
of my sister, Beryl Ann, on August 23
by Trish Dooner.**

Parish Announcements, Prayers, & Thanksgivings

Love is the Way Book Group

The group meets on Sundays from 9:30 - 10:15 in the Chapel, now through August 24. Come join us!

Grace Point Day

Saturday, August 23, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center, Kingston

Cost: Free, No Registration Required

Join Episcopalians from across the diocese as we celebrate the close of summer with one last day of fun at Grace Point. Activities range from splashing in the pool and hiking the trails to kayaking and trips on the boat. There's no cost and lunch is provided.

Resurrection Men

Saturday, August 23, 9:00 a.m.

Our first meeting of the year will be next week, on Saturday, August 23. We normally meet on the third Saturday monthly; please note that this happens to be the fourth Saturday.

As always we will gather first (9:00 a.m.) for a light breakfast. We will be studying Lesson 1 (Noah) of ***Ten Men of the Bible*** by Max Lucado (available on Amazon) All men of Resurrection are welcome to join us. Please contact Mark Hennes at mhennes81@icloud.com if you have questions.

Daughters of the King

Saturday, August 23, 9:30 a.m.

We will meet downstairs in the conference room, since the Men's Group is upstairs today.

Next week is Four Paws Sunday

August 24 is the 4th Sunday, so please bring bags of cat or dog food to share with Four Paws Food Pantry. Donations for the same are also most welcome!

Pinecone Tying Workday

Please join us on Tuesday (August 19) and/or Thursday (August 21) to start the Christmas wreath process. Yes, it's really that time again! We will start both days at 1:30, downstairs in the Parish Hall.

Memorial Garden Fee Increase September 1st

To lock in the current pricing for yourself or a family member, you may apply and pay for your plot or plaque by August 31. Applications are available in the church office. Please speak with Jane Mocilac or Jean Cardwell if you have any questions.

Our Parish Prayer List

Jackie C.; J.L.; David H.; Becca H.;

Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon

Continuing Prayers for:

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family;
Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley;
Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe; Beverly; Grace;
Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

For our Vestry leaders:

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.

Class of 2026: Drew H., Dawson H., Jenny L.

Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.

Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Dawson H., Sally L.

Also for the Diocesan Prayer List:

For Agriculture, BCP 824

For Rain, BCP 828

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 1 Betsy & Bill Schwindt

August 3 Kathleen & Ron Bailey

August 3 Judy Keller; Bryan Ledyard

August 5 Alice Anderson

August 5 Dianna & Pete Stimpson

August 12 Pam McAfee

August 13 Karen & Mark Blakley

August 15 Linda Lefler

August 24 Jan & Bush Hanna

August 24 Betty Martin

August 25 Jan Hanna

August 25 Gloria Andrzejewski

August 27 Jen Hennes

Staff Vacation

Our Parish Administrator, Bonnie Smith, will be out of town August 24 - 31. Thanks to the volunteers who will be in the office to answer phones and to assist members while Bonnie is gone! If you need specific support from the church offices before the end of the month, you will need to get in touch with Bonnie this coming week (office@episcopalloudon.com).

For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

August 17	8:00 am	10:30 am	
Acolyte	Andrew Wilkinson	Drew Hawley	Altar Guild: Bev Baumgardner
EM	Holly Pate	Judy Egan	Flower Guild: Betty Martin
Lectors	Peggy Rogers	Jackie Buttinelli	Organist: Judy Moyer
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger	Art Stewart & Monty Ross	Celebrant &
Chancellor	Jerry Ploeger	David Baumgardner	Preacher: Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Rosemary Kitts	Jenny Lucas	Monday Volunteer (8/18)
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine	Mark Hennes
Counters	n/a	Monty Ross & Carolyn Parker	

NEXT WEEK

August 24	8:00 am	10:30 am	
Acolyte	Judy Hadjian	Dawson Hope	Altar Guild: Bev Baumgardner
EM	Mark Hennes	Jane Mocilac	Flower Guild: Dianna Stimpson
Lectors	Holly Pate	Judy Egan	Organist: Judy Moyer
Ushers	Andrew Wilkinson	Drew Hawley & Garry Lucas	Celebrant &
Chancellor	Holly Pate	Art Stewart	Preacher: Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Donna Bye	Virginia Perry	Mon Vol: 8/25 Donna Bye
Video	n/a	Mark Blakley	Tues Vol: 8/26 Pam McAfee
Counters	n/a	Alice Anderson & Jean Cardwell	Wed Vol: 8/27 Pam McAfee
			Fri Vol: 8/29 Pam McAfee

Next Week at Resurrection

Monday, August 18
7:00 p.m. - AA (*open meeting*)

Tuesday, August 19
1:30 p.m. - Pinecone Tying for wreaths

Wednesday, August 20
9:00 a.m. - Deadline for submissions
1:00 p.m. - Pastoral Care Meeting

Thursday, August 21
9:30 a.m. - Prayers & Squares
1:30 p.m. - Pinecone Tying for wreaths

Saturday, August 23
9:00 a.m. - Resurrection Men
9:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King
10:00 a.m. - Grace Point Day

Sunday, August 24
8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken
9:30 a.m. - *Love is the Way* Book Group
10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral
- Four Paws Collection

COMING UP ...

Week of August 25 - 29
Vacation, Parish Administrator
See volunteer schedule above

Sunday, August 31
Holy Eucharist, spoken
Holy Eucharist, choral

**Check your Parish Tidings
for upcoming details!**

*Email office@episcopalloudon.com by Wednesday
at 9 a.m. to have your ministry or committee's
activities added to the parish calendar.*

*To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca
Bridges, please email rector@episcopalloudon.com
or call the church (865-986-2390). For
pastoral needs after hours, call 865-242-9240.*

TODAY'S ART



Title: Creation of Wartime III,
1999-2008
Artist: Samuel Bak, 1933 -
Oil on Canvas
Pucker Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
© Samuel Bak, Courtesy of Pucker Gallery
Samuel Bak was born in Vilna, Poland in 1933.
From 1940 to 1944, Vilna was under Soviet,

then German occupation. While he and his mother survived, his father and four grandparents all perished at the hands of the Nazis. At the end of the war, he fled with his mother to the Landsberg Displaced Persons Camp, where he enrolled in painting lessons at the Blocherer School in Munich. In 1948, they immigrated to the newly established state of Israel. He studied at the Bezalel Art School in Jerusalem and completed his mandatory service in the Israeli army. He continued his studies in Paris, Rome, Lausanne and New York, moving to and becoming an American citizen in 1993.
<https://www.puckergallery.com/samuel-bak>

Situated majestically at the centre of the Sistine Chapel ceiling, Michelangelo Buonarroti's famous fresco of The Creation of Adam depicts an almost tangible electricity between God's finger and Adam's, as if the Creator's divine energy will be transferred to Adam upon their touch, bestowing the creature with spiritual life, rational thought, and a moral consciousness.

It is this energy that is drained out of the canvas in Samuel Bak's painting, based on Michelangelo's composition. Most notably, God is absent. The hole blasted open in a bombed-out building occupies the area in which Michelangelo imagined God leaning out of the heavens towards Adam. The electricity between their fingertips is now without vitality. The source of that earlier energy—the divine hand—is now replaced by a listless, empty glove hanging on a nail that maintains its fragile grip on the otherwise besieged wall.

Adam, dressed both in ancient drapery and modern underclothes, appears more dazed than languid in this new context. Reclining before and beside two undetonated missiles, the ruins of war surround him in wrecked furniture, broken dishes, and burnt paper. Smoke rises ominously from two chimneys visible in the distance. They are juxtaposed with a cross that stands equally threateningly in the foreground.

In Isaiah 5, the author speaks of Israel and Judah as YHWH's 'pleasant planting' (5:7), and in God's lament—'What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?' (v.4)—we may hear a cry of unrequited love. But the passage goes on to announce a retraction of this favour: because of its 'wildness' (v.4), 'I will make it a waste,' God says (vv.5–6). The vineyard, and all it stands for, will be undone.

The eye returns again and again in Bak's image to negative space, to the absence of God. In that void, Bak raises timeless questions about evil and about human suffering. If Michelangelo and his patrons were confident about God's existence—about God's presence behind and in creation, and about God's desire for a just society to be revealed through a covenant signed and sealed with the Jewish people—Bak depicts its undoing. Creation of Wartime III is an image of uncreation. A theology that sees divine purposes at work in the horrors of war, a theology that still affirms the reality of a covenant with Israel, even the barest belief in the very existence of God: for Bak, it was all undone in the Shoah. *Commentary by Kimberly J. Vrudny*

References

<https://thevcs.org/song-vineyard#covenant-undonet>

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