

Peace in Ukraine

On 3rd May 2022 I sent this round to the 53 people who then received my emails when I produce a new painting.

“Dear all, Thinking and praying about peace in Ukraine, I wrote and prayed the following during the intercessions on Sunday in the Lordsbridge Team Zoom Service, online, “My Lord and My God, humanity blundered into making the world a place where pandemic was inevitable, and now there is war in Europe once again, not to mention the 22 other conflicts on the Earth in which 1000 or more people died last year. My Lord and My God, so many of the leaders of the nations need a road of Damascus experience. We pray that the Holy Spirit will fall on them in power and take the scales from their eyes so that they can see the sins they have perpetrated, and repent and stop the wars. My Lord and My God, we pray for a miracle, for your will to be done on Earth. My Lord and My God, Hear our prayers and help us to do your will.”

Shortly after the service finished this image popped into my head. I had a pretty fair idea of where it was and what it shows. It turns out to be a view across the Carpathian Mountains in Western Ukraine. (see more about it below). I put together three photos to make up the basic photomontage, and added the peaceful European Bison or Wisent to the meadow. Most are lying down and this tells us that it is a peaceful scene because if they had even the slightest hint of trouble they would all be standing, looking, and this little herd of endangered and peaceable herbivores is completely at ease.

I added the dove, larger than in previous peace painting intentionally because it was larger in my mind's eye. The Holy Spirit came as a dove to Jesus' baptism, and one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is peace (Galatians 5:22). I added the golden eagle, way away, in the beams of light in the sky, because it was in my mind's eye and waited to find out its significance. Rather than wait any longer I release the painting, yet to find out. The light beams in the sky... as soon as I found the right sky... I knew that this was from the prophecy of Zechariah upon the birth of his son John the Baptist, as he turns to the baby and in Luke 1:76 and 79 says 'And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,' referring to Jesus and ending with the light of Christ 'to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace'.

This whole painting is about peace and is set in Ukraine, a county at war. I suggest that we pray for peace, for the peacemakers, for the frightened people of Ukraine, of Europe, of the world, for the people of Russia and for those who tell them lies, and especially pray for Vladimir Putin, for a road to Damascus experience, the full works, so that he might understand the sins that he has perpetrated, repent and end the war. We should pray for good for all people, let judgment be for God. Pray for those we love and those who are our enemies, as Jesus commanded us to do. Love from Rick

Technical details for anyone interested: It is a composite of three views, the foreground is a meadow used as a campsite to judge by the public domain image I found of it. In my head it contained European Bison or Wisent, rather than tents. The more distant view beyond the line of conifers at the back of the meadow is all one image, except the sky, and shows the Carpathians rolling away into the distance. I tried to make the image with the original sky from the photo but I could not reproduce the rays of light effectively and wasted most of two days trying. Then I found the sky in my mind's eye, as a public domain image on Flickr. Grafting it seamlessly onto the mountains was challenging but proved possible as you may judge for yourselves. It helped that there was the faintest hint of the most distant hills forming a line through the blue-grey.

I painted it multiple ways, but this was the only painting that really worked. The brushstrokes are quite small and so if you want to see them you will have to zoom in. The brush strokes on the face of the dove are slightly smaller as I always feel that the dove should have a clearly defined eye and beak. I have to stop now as it is important to get this painting out now.

Actually I had gastroenteritis and it is a miracle that the painting is as good as it is and the writing as coherent.”