



Who are
the women
for whom you
can give thanks
in this Season
of Advent?

Second Sunday of Advent

This Advent we acknowledge the gifts of women in our families, communities and world. As a creation story from the First Nations People of Central and North Queensland reminds us,

Women in Aboriginal life were nurturers, leaders, carriers of the flame and keepers of wisdom. The creation story of the Seven Sisters saw them come down from the heavens bringing everything that was beautiful in the world. (Mercy Partners Formation. 2021).

Mary of Nazareth was a woman who walked closely with Sophia (wisdom). Mary reflected on the events of her life, looking at them like photographs, pondering them, recalling what had taken place, seeing the truths that were part of her life. (Rupp, J. *The Star in My Heart*. 1990. p.65).

Mary's life of self-giving love is at the heart of our Christmas story.

... she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)

COMPASSION JUSTICE RESPECT HOPE

IMAGE SOURCE: "THE GIFT" BY REV ROBYN DAVIS

About the Artwork



The Gift

Robyn has combined rich colours, simple figures and elaborate dot work to create this striking nativity scene in which the wise men are depicted as emus. The track surrounding the scene develops branches leading to Christ, symbolic of the journey we can all take towards God.

I see my paintings as a spiritual gift. It enables me to bring the word of God into area where it would not normally be. I believe God puts stories as pictures into my head, so He needs to be acknowledged as the true artist.
Aunty Robyn Davis (Our Mob, God's Story. 2017. p.100).

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby... an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them.... The angel said to them "Do not be afraid I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord..." (Luke 2:8-12)

The greatest gift of all!

Artist note:

I wanted this painting to shine with joy. For the viewer to see the great promises of God. To see the colours of the rainbow, the promise of grace, understanding and peace on earth. To see a future filled with hope.

Robyn trained in European style art and now prefers to do contemporary Aboriginal art which depicts her cultural identity and background. Her clan totem is the platypus and her personal totem the sand goanna, giving her strong connections to the land and the water, which feature in most of her works. She has a strong Christian faith (ordained in 2009) and believes that God has given her this gift as he gives all of us gifts. You will find a small gold cross in each of her paintings to acknowledge this. God bless.

This is a print of an original piece of Aboriginal art and as such all rights belong to the artist,
Robyn Davis, Wadi Wadi Nations.