

Joy to the World

Chapel, Cathedral of the Holy Family



"Joy to the World" is a large-scale mosaic by Canadian glass artist Sarah Hall. Comprised of over one million hand made glass tiles the work was commissioned by the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The work forms a nearly symmetrical design between two stained glass windows. Two large arcs, suggesting both the wings of a butterfly and the inverted curves of the chalice frame the central figures of the Angel Gabriel and Mary at the moment of the Annunciation.

Mary is depicted as she turns toward the angel – with one hand still poised within her world of the everyday, she turns to look upon the announcing Angel. Gabriel enters the earthy realm upon his wings to convey the news and Mary turns to consider the immensity of what she has been told.

Mary and the Angel are held suspended upon an arc of blue mosaic – an image that is at once the blue sky of the prairie sky and the realm of celestial miracle. Between them the earth is framed as a circular orb, a fragile home for all of mankind. The two stained glass windows are pictured as fields of golden wind-blown wheat, with grapes and lilies referencing the Eucharist and bringing us to earth.

Sarah's technical partner in the creation of the mosaic and windows was Glasmalerei Peters GmbH of Paderborn, Germany.
www.SarahHallStudio.com

