



Tell Out My Soul

A Woven Prayer

*"For the joy of ear and eye, for the Heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise," -
Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth"*

I love fabric: the colors, the texture, the vast diversity of uses, and all of the connections that are made because of these beautiful possibilities. When I look back through the years of my life, bits of fabric wrap many of my memories... silk samples from an aunt's decorating business, given to me to play with, in colors too beautiful to cut up; scraps from garments my mother made, cottons and wool and corduroy; a yo-yo bed cover another aunt made me, bright and heavy, hugging me at night; someone's crazy quilt, all silks and velvets. These pieces, and so many more tied up in thread and yarn and ribbon, shared and created by women to express their love.

As I sit in a pew in church surrounded by the symbols of the love God has shown us in the words of our gospels, prayers, hymns, and in the color and beauty of hangings and vestments around me, I can feel the same kind of love wrapped around me.

When I was first given the opportunity to create a stole, and then a chasuble, a frontal, banners, and paraments, I felt like finally I could share some of the love I felt with those around me. God has gifted us with so much beauty, so much color, and so very much love that, for me, there are not enough words to express it all. But each piece of fabric art and beauty is piece of prayer in process and a mite of thanks for the blessings all around. tens.org



Questions for Reflection:

What are your activities or hobbies that you see as prayerful, or offer you an opportunity to channel your prayers?



Mary Franklin is a lifelong Episcopalian with a love of and fascination for fabric, color and words, especially words of praise and gratitude.