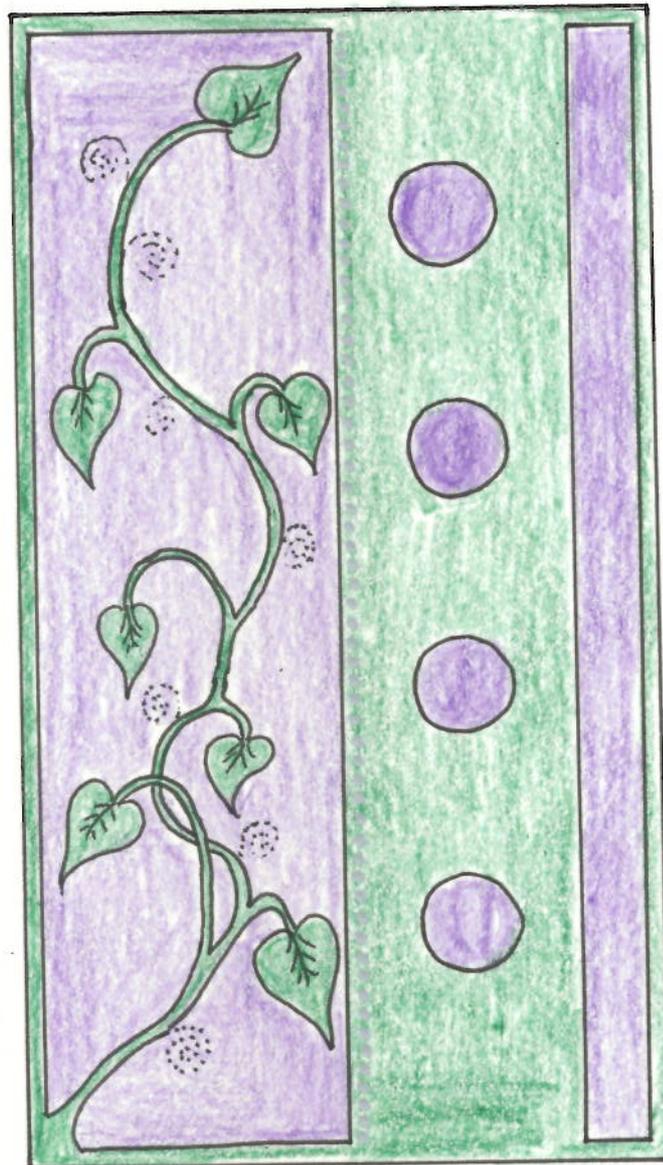
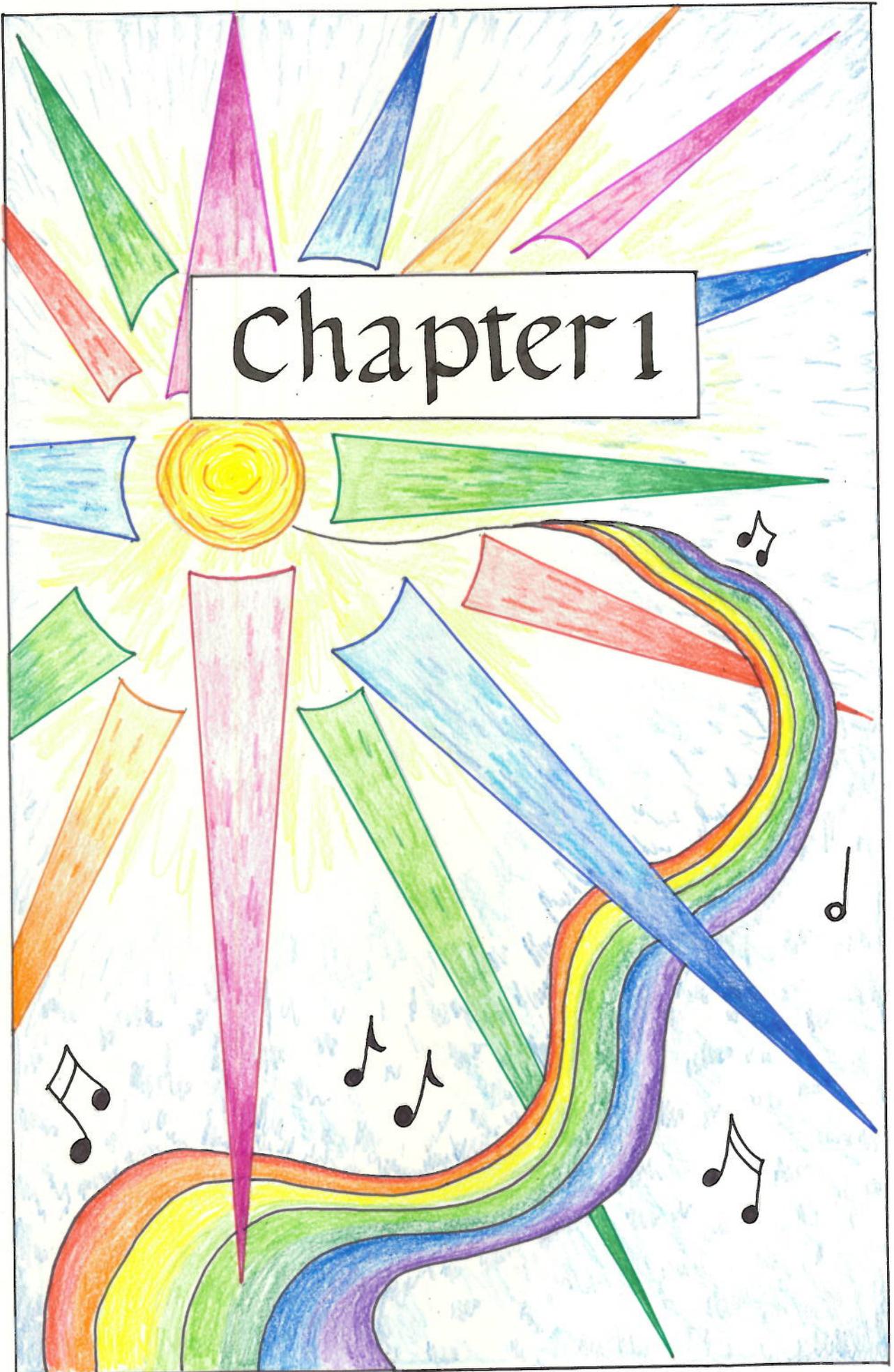


HABAKKUK



Chapter 1



HABAKKUK 1

The Convocation of the
Methodist Diaconal Order

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—

therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

⁵ *Look at the nations, and see!*

Be astonished! Be astounded!

For a work is being done in your days

that you would not believe if you were told.

⁶ *For I am rousing the Chaldeans,*

that fierce and impetuous nation,

who march through the breadth of the earth.

to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷ *Dread and fearsome are they;*

Their justice and dignity proceed from themselves.

8 Their horses are swifter than leopards,
more menacing than wolves at dusk;
their horses charge.

Their horsemen come from far away;
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

9 They all come for violence,
with faces pressing forward;
they gather captives like sand.

10 At kings they scoff,
and of rulers they make sport.
They laugh at every fortress,
and heap up earth to take it.

11 Then they sweep by like the wind;
they transgress and become guilty;
their own might is their god!

12 Are you not from of old,
O Lord my God, my Holy One?

Habakkuk 1.

The Convocation of the
Methodist Diocesan Order.

You shall not die.

O Lord, you have marked them for judgement;
and you, O God, have established them for punishment.

13 Your eyes are too pure to behold evil,
and you cannot look on wrong doing;
why do you look on the treacherous,
and are silent when the wicked swallow
those more righteous than they?

14 you have made people like the fish of the sea,
like crawling things that have no ruler.

15 The enemy brings all of them up with a hook;
he drags them out with his net,
he gathers them in his seine;
so he rejoices and exults.

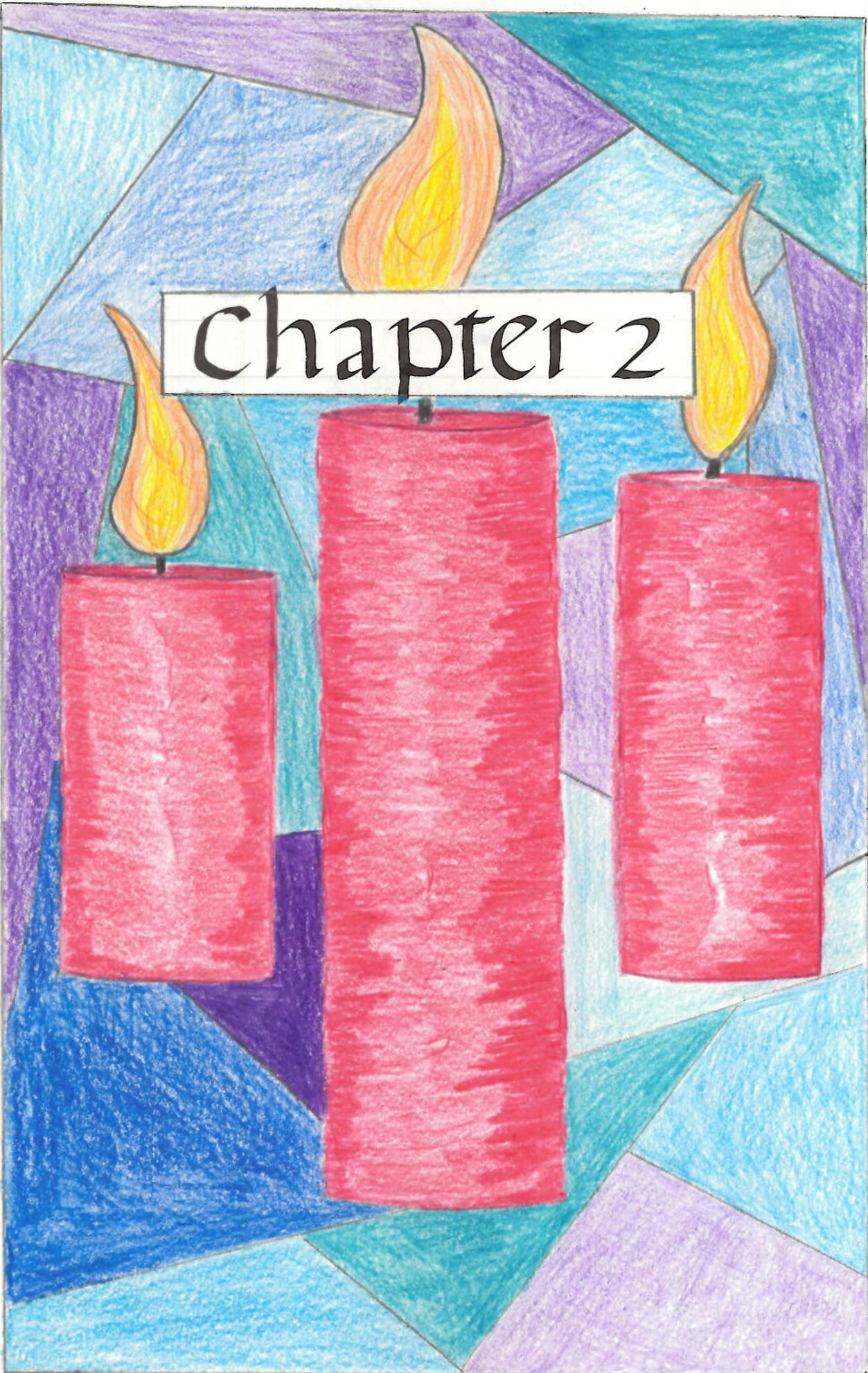
16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net
and makes offerings to his seine;
for by them his portion is lavish,
and his food is rich.

17 Is he then to keep on emptying his net,

Habakkuk 1

The Convocation of the
Methodist Diaconal Order

and destroying nations without mercy?



Chapter 2

HABAKKUK 2

The conversation of the
Methodist Diaconal
Order.

¹ I will stand at my watch-post, and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,

so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,

but the righteous live by their faith.

⁵ Moreover, wealth is treacherous;

the arrogant do not endure.

They open their throats wide as Sheol;

like Death they never have enough.

They gather all nations for themselves,
and collect all peoples as their own.

6 Shall not everyone taunt such people and, with
mocking riddles, say about them,
'Alas for you who heap up what is not your own.'
How long will you load yourselves with goods taken
in pledge?

7 Will not your own creditors suddenly rise,
and those who make you tremble wake up?
Then you will be booty for them.

8 Because you have plundered many nations,
all that survive of the peoples shall plunder you—
because of human bloodshed, and violence to the earth
to cities and all who live in them.

9 'Alas for you who get evil gain for your houses,
Setting your nest on high
to be safe from the reach of harm!'

10 You have devised shame for your house

HABAKKUK 2

The Convocation of
the Methodist Diaconal
Order.

by cutting off many peoples;
you have forfeited your life.

11 The very stones will cry out from the wall,
and the plaster will respond from the woodwork.

12 'Alas for you who build a town by bloodshed,
and found a city on iniquity!'

13 Is it not from the LORD of hosts
that peoples labour only to feed the flames,
and nations weary themselves for nothing?

14 But the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.

15 'Alas for you who make your neighbours drink,
pouring out your wrath until they are drunk,
in order to gaze on their nakedness!'

16 You will be sated with contempt instead of glory
Drink, you yourself, and stagger!

The cup in the LORD'S right hand

will come around to you,
and shame will come upon your glory!

17 For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you
the destruction of the animals will terrify you —
because of human bloodshed and violence to the ear
to cities and all who live in them.

18 What use is an idol
once its maker has shaped it —
a cast image, a teacher of lies?

For its maker trusts in what has been made,
though the product is only an idol that cannot speak

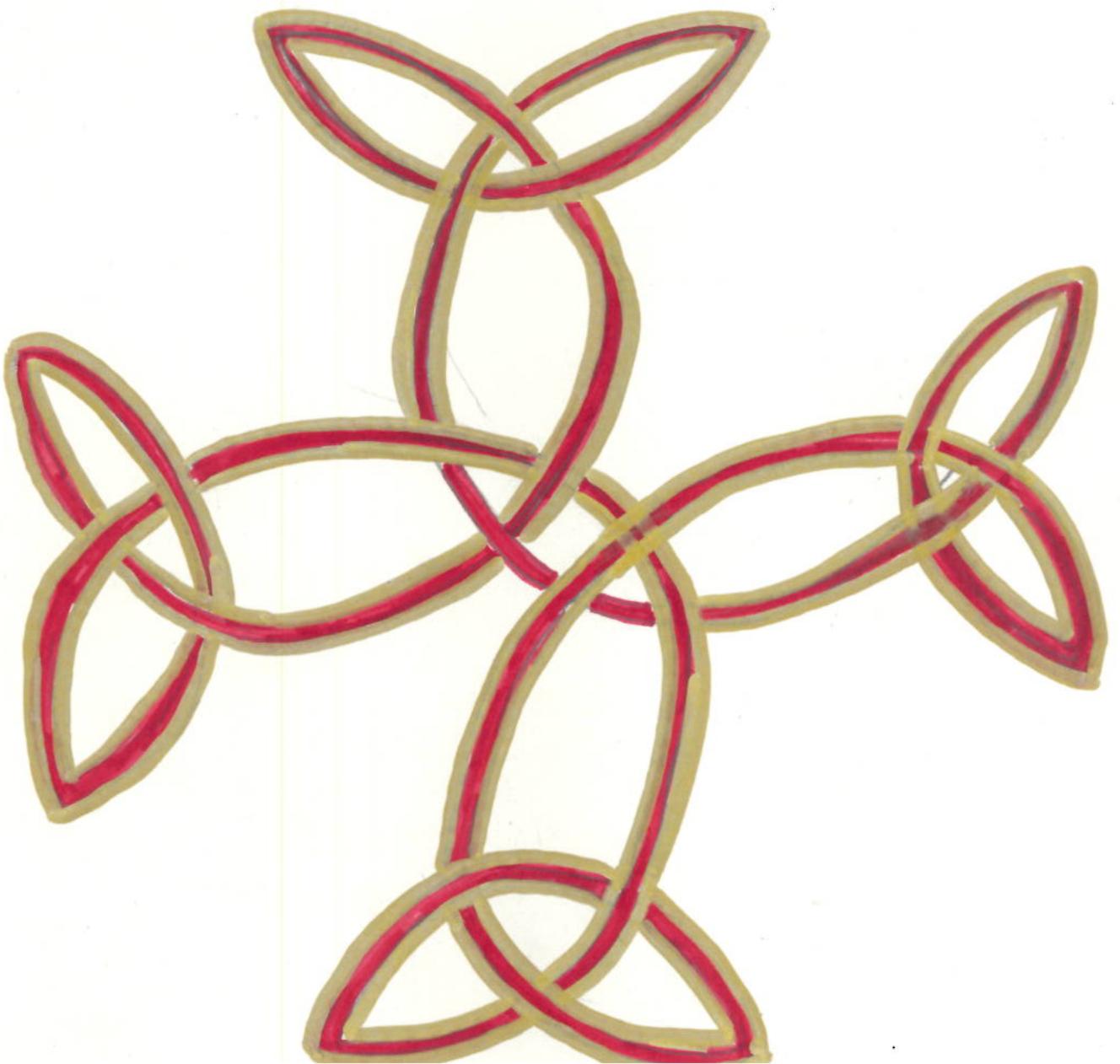
19 Alas for you who say to the wood, 'Wake up!'
to silent stone, 'Rouse yourself!'

Can it teach?

See, it is plaked with gold and silver,
and there is no breath in it at all.

20 But the LORD is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him!

Chapter 3



HABAKKUK 3

The Consecration of the
Methodist Diaconal
Order

¹ A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk according
to Shigionoth.

² O Lord, I have heard of your renown,
and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work.

In our time revive it;

in our time make it known;

in wrath may you remember mercy.

³ God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.

Selah

His glory covered the heavens,

⁴ and the earth was full of his praise.

The brightness was like the sun;

rays came forth from his hand,

where his power lay hidden.

⁵ Before him went pestilence,

⁶ and plague followed close behind.

He stopped and shook the earth;

he tottered and made the nations tremble.

The eternal mountains were shattered;

along his ancient pathways

the everlasting hills sank low.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan under affliction;
the tent-curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

8 Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord?

Or your anger against the rivers,

or your rage against the sea,

when you drove your horses,

your chariots of victory?

9 You brandished your naked bow,

sated were the arrows at your command

Gelah

10 You spit the earth with rivers.

The mountains saw you and writhed;

a torrent of water swept by;

the deep gave forth its voice.

The sun raised high its hands;

11 The moon bowed low in its exalted place,

at the light of your arrows speeding by,

at the gleam of your flashing spear.

HABAKKUK 3

The Conversation of the
Methodist Diaconal Order.

¹² In fury you trod the earth,
in anger you trampled nations.

¹³ You came forth to save your people,
to save your anointed.

You crushed the head of the wicked house,
laying it bare from foundation to roof.

SELAH

¹⁴ You pierced with their own arrows the head of his warriors,
who came like a whirlwind to scatter us,
gloating as if ready to devour the poor who were in hiding.

¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses,
churning the mighty waters.

¹⁶ I hear, and I tremble within;
my lips quiver at the sound.
Rottiness enters into my bones,
and my steps tremble beneath me.

I wait for the day of calamity
to come upon the people who attack us.

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bloom,
and no fruit is on the vines;

HABAKKUK 3

The Conversation of the
Methodist Diaconal Order

though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;

though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.

To the leader: with stringed instruments.