

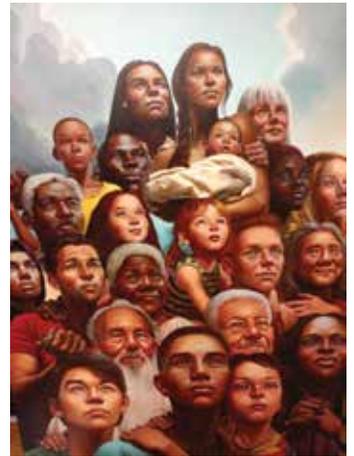
## The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University

May 2021

Dear Friend,

Artist and illustrator Kadir Nelson offers a ray of hope in the midst of the global pandemic with his painting, "After the Storm." The 26x36 masterpiece "celebrates the strength of the human spirit and challenges all of humankind to stand together, to look upwards and onward to create a path forward and set its sights on moving beyond the current challenges."

A limited edition giclée on canvas from the original painting was purchased by a Bluffton alumni family and is on loan to The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center. This artwork served as a visual for my message during an outdoor chapel service in the fall, virtual sermons at local churches, in numerous prerecorded programs shared broadly for elementary use, and during Becoming a Scholar sessions with first-year Bluffton students. It is currently displayed behind my desk as a background for my virtual connections through Zoom. I look forward to sharing it more broadly when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, along with our collection of 10 picture books illustrated by Nelson.



Although prerecorded programs and virtual sessions lack personal interaction with children, they have provided connection and continuity. A local teacher responded, "I just watched the third grade culture video you made. How wonderful! I think it is a perfect substitute for our traditional trip to see you at The Lion and Lamb. You so nicely capture several of the really important messages of what a visit to you would have included. The video quality is great, too! I hope we can see you in person next year! Thank you again for making this so our students could still experience you and these important lessons!"

I recently hosted a visit to The Lion and Lamb and a tour of peace-themed sculptures around campus during a virtual international peace seminar. Participants included higher education instructors and directors of peace and conflict studies programs in Canada, Philippines, Japan, Nepal, Morocco, Lithuania, Malaysia and United States. They were inspired by The Lion and Lamb's mission of peace education and hoped they could someday visit in person. One new friend from Malaysia noted that he added "Visit The Lion and Lamb" to his bucket list.

Thank you for your interest and support of The Lion and Lamb's mission to provide peace education. You're welcome to stop by when restrictions are lifted. Until then, visit us at [www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb](http://www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb) and check out the **Director's Choice** and **Peace Garden** links.

Keep on keeping on,

*Louise Matthews*

Louise Matthews  
Director, The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center