



**“Juneteenth Freedom”**

*Rowan Abbensetts, June 2023*

*Watercolor on paper*

A commemoration of June 19, 1865, when the Texas slaves learned of their freedom. The man in the middle symbolizes Christ with his arms outstretched as a cross and the two slaves in a prayer of thanks for their freedom.

## About the Artist



Rowan Abbensetts is a member of New Hope Lutheran Church, Jamaica, and a professional folk art painter. He primarily works in watercolor. His work is displayed and sold online and at art galleries around the city.

In addition to his art, Rowan is also a writer. His writing led to his art when he wrote a play of childhood reminiscences titled “I Remember Christmas.” He submitted it to a literary agent who loved it but said it would do better if it had some illustrations. Hence his folk-art illustrations. The script has since been adapted as a nativity play and is read in schools. It has even been performed at New Hope.

Originally from Guyana, South America, Rowan also lived in Ghana, West Africa, and found a welcome at New Hope. He is an active member of New Hope, serving his second term on the Congregation Council, and was its president in 2019. He is chair of the property committee and is the church’s audio/visual and Livestream engineer.

Rowan is currently retired and spends his time writing, painting, and doing what he wrote about in the 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of New Hope’s *Connections Newsmagazine*, “It is my desire to dedicate more time to New Hope Lutheran Church. In my service to the New Hope Lutheran Church, I would like to share some of the talents God has given me in art and writing. In partnership with the congregation, I vow to spread the word of Christ and the mission of the New Hope Lutheran Church.” He is doing that and so much more.

Rowan is a real treasure to New Hope!

*-Kirkland Lindsay, Member*