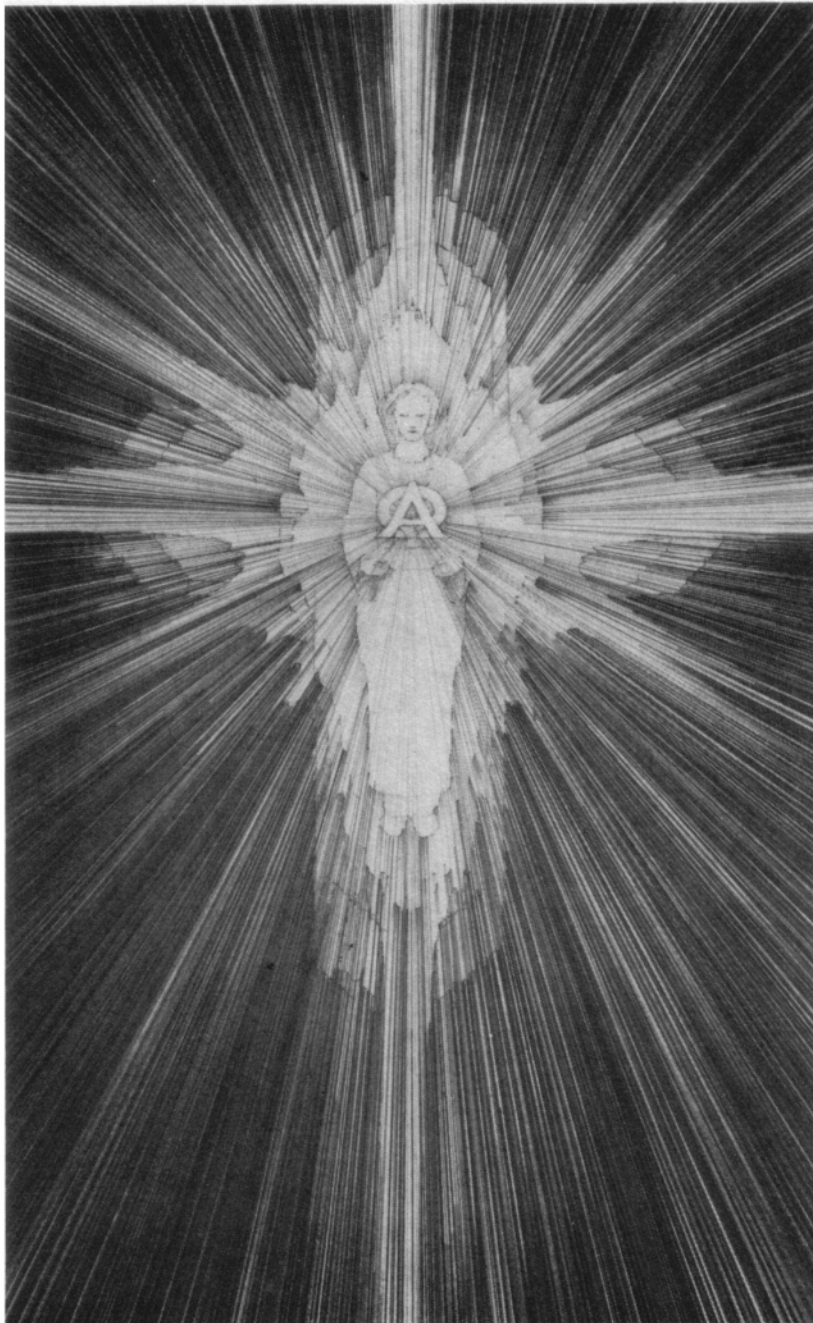


ADVENT 1986



by W. H. H. Rees

"Proclamation"

ADVENT 1986

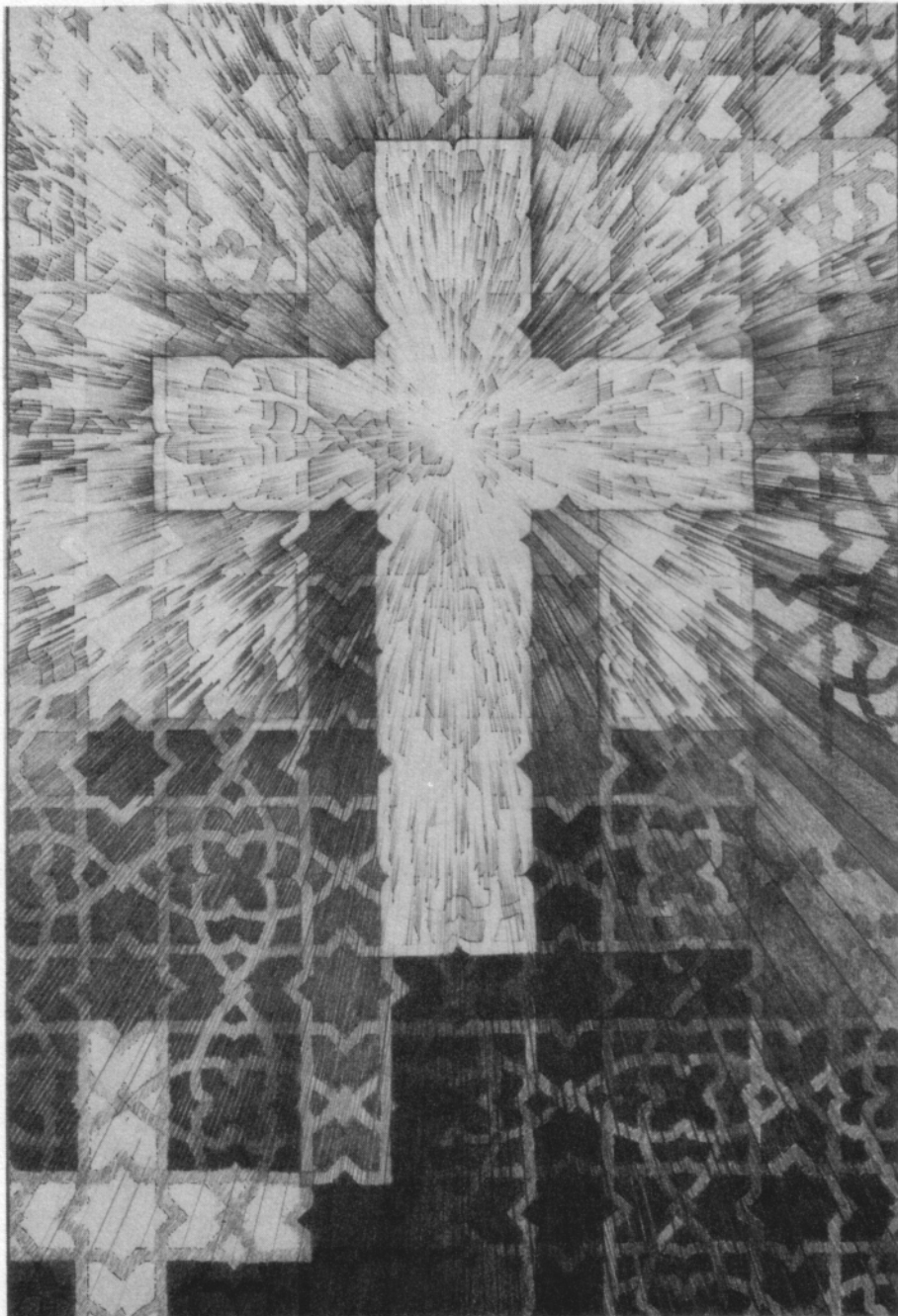
Text by W. H. H. Rees

Drawings by Stephen J. Kaltenbach



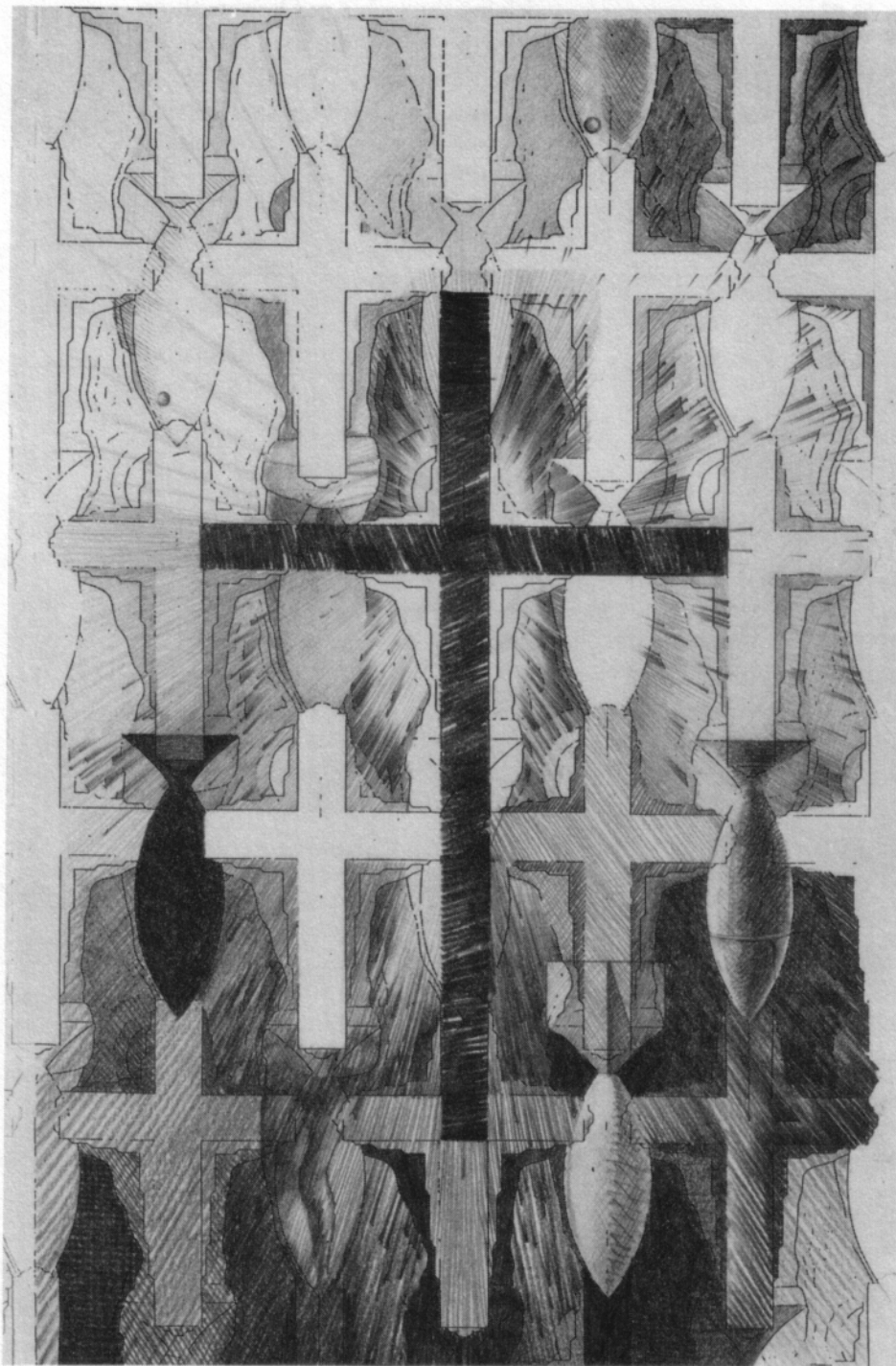
Door to Heaven

- 11.30 wondering if signs will come again, when in the line from me to the crucifix is the only white hat in the congregation, against a dark blue coat; and three birds flying in a perfect triangle; and, later, two ladies, one in a white coat, the other in black, speaking on George Street, while at the other end the Fusco Building aglow, as if on fire
- 12.01 a flashing blinker light; then, a single headlight in the rear view mirror; then, a single headlight approaching; then, a single taillight in front; then, another flashing blinker and Dylan Thomas prays: "Forgive me; forgive me", from the tape deck
- 12.02 three red stop lights, three neon lights reflected in a window, and a tattered paper sign raised up from a pole by the wind, pointing



Light Source

- 12.03 driving through a red light with no cars in sight, and a man by the side of the road stands up, as if to scold; later, passing three piles of green on the side of the road, which are about to be ignored as mere objects, when "6381 ACT" appears on a license plate, a double trinity cubed and an imperative
- 12.04 lights on one side of 195 near Stamford are on and on the other side off
- 12.05 in St. Bartholomew's for a Christmas Concert my daughter complains about college and, then, goes to sing "Creator alme siderum" under two candles, one lit, one out; later, the large horizontal Advent wreath hung before the altar with one lit candle turns 180° and stops where it can point to Christ, mosaically baptised, then return to its natural position; still, later, it turns once again 90° where the candle can point to the supporting wire as a frozen bolt of lightning, as the choir passes underneath singing "Joy to the World"
- 12.06 a lady, befriended a month ago by my wife on a flight from Washington, calls to say that her daughter was born the day her sister-in-law died, after whom the baby was named
- 12.07 the smoke trails of two airplanes flying in the same direction at a 30° angle are crossed by a third flying to the left and, then, back again to the right to form a \mathbb{R} , later echoed on a drug store sign
- 12.08 at mass at St. Brendan's the lector in a black suit sits behind the Paschal Candle on the right of the altar, balanced by the altar boy in a white cassock behind the American flag on the left
- 12.09 outside a church three birds fly from right to left; later, three other birds fly from right to left; and, still later, three friends together on George Street; and still later, at home three brothers sit around the kitchen table



Loaves and Fishes

- 12.10 picking from a pile of mail an envelope marked "Urgent" as a car with the bumper sticker "Praise the Lord" passes by, containing a request to protect the right to life
- 12.11 the light on the dashboard flashes empty as an announcement for "Gottterdammerung" is made on the radio, and, later, flashing again as the "Kyrie" is sung
- 12.12 two Vs of sand side by side on the sidewalk, and, later, covered by snow across the street from which a W of exposed bricks on a painted wall; and, then, the snow on the back auto window melts into another W; and, still later, the inverted W of the Golden Arches and the call to "Join Us"; and, even later, two wedges of frog pizza arrive in the mail from David Gilhooly
- 12.13 a whistle blows attention to a faded logo on a Choate School station wagon. a C at the beginning and a S and the end: Christ Saves; Christ, Savior
- 12.14 at a stop light, the right rear blinker of the car in front points to the diptych of the side door of a moving van open to the right and the interior of the van on the left; and, minutes later, the yin-yang sign on a billboard; and, still later, Van Gogh's "Starry Night" at the Met
- 12.15 two triangles at St. Mary's: three lighted candles in the votive candle rack and outside two pigeons fly from a third, sitting on the ground; and, later, three signs on a pole, the "One Way" pointing to the left, the "Detour" in the middle, and the bottom arrow pointing to the sky; and, still later, two more signs, an arrow pointing up and an arrow pointing left inside a red circle with a horizontal red wrong way line
- 12.16 3Ys: a branch by the side of the road; a bumper sticker; the shape of the chairs set up in a room



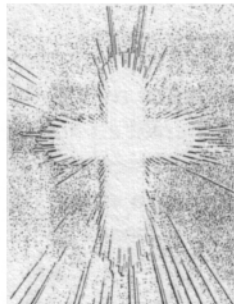
Untitled

- 12.17 a half built
home smiles, two windows for eyes, one below for the
nose, and three on the first floor as the mouth, a residen-
tial jack-o-lantern
- 12.18 a truck passes on the left with a logo
"C + S" and on the right: Cross Street
- 12.19 lights on a tower
flash as if to announce and a blinker light points left and,
then, turning to the left to the sign on the right "J4" and
the "Thanks" on the billboard on the left for the
appearance of Jesus in the world
- 12.20 a slender vertical station-
ary white cloud bent slightly as a C is gradually overtaken
by a moving dark cloud and, finally, obliterated, as a choir
on the radio sings: "And the dead shall rise; and we shall
be changed", from the "Messiah"
- 12.21 "JCNH", Jesus Christ,
New Haven, graffiti on the road to Madison; later, flashing
lights on a tow truck herald an ambulance coming on the
left and the "Emergency" sign on the right; and, still later,
my wife asks her mother to spend the evening with us as
we pass the "Join Us" billboard ad for healthcare
- 12.22 more
flashing lights on the highway and two triangles appear
and a "Gloria" is sung on the radio; later, a three on each
of two dice hung in a car; and, still later, flashing lights
again, this time on a UI truck, with three men standing on
the side of the street and, around the corner, three more
men in the street
- 12.23 my wife greets me in the morning with
an intense frown, as though a loved one had just died, as
though there would be no encounter on this day

12.24

a driver in

a passing auto holds his hand out the window, pointing to heaven, as a Christmas carol is sung on the radio; and, later, a trumpet piece on the radio becomes "O, hear the angels' voices" as the channel automatically changes after passing under a bridge; and, still later, on route 7 the sign "O hart"



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