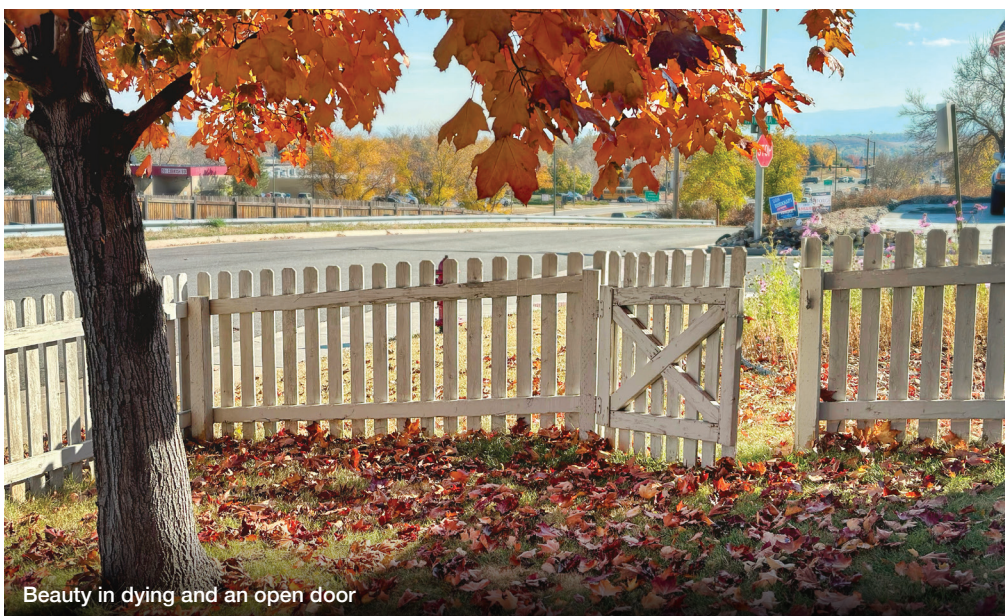


Anthony & Jessica Amor

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. JOHN 14:27 NRSV



Beauty in dying and an open door



Saint Christopher
by Vincenzo Foppa

Fall is absolutely our favorite time of year! The trees are shedding their fiery orange, deep red, and peaceful yellow leaves. The temperature is falling and bringing in a chilling breeze that probably stokes most people's desire to curl up in a comfy blanket, put on warm socks, and make some hot chocolate. The anticipation of the Christmas season awakens our hearts as thoughts of family, food, and generosity fill our souls, while at the same time, Mariah Carey sings to us ad nauseam and fills our ears. This season carries an abundance of paradoxes. Life around us is dying: trees become dormant, animals hibernate, and humanity seeks shelter, bringing separation from the usual interactions and relationships outside the home. During these days, our family kicks into a higher gear of invitation into our home, into relationships, and into hospitality as we remember a God who chose to become a helpless baby to draw us near to Him.

The art pictured of a man holding a child on his shoulder is titled "Saint Christopher," painted by Vincenzo Foppa. As the story goes, one day, a tall man encountered a child who needed help across a river. He put the child on his shoulder and carried him across. As he went, the child got heavier, the water got deeper, and the current got stronger, but they eventually made it to the other side. It was then revealed to the man that he was carrying Jesus Himself. This is apparently where the man got the name Christopher, which means Christ-bearer or Christ-carrier. He was just being helpful to a child, and in doing so, he carried Jesus. In this season where we are all experiencing paradox—life and death, joy and sadness—how can we carry Christ with us in our own lives and into the lives around us?

We want to share with you how we are carrying Jesus into this next season:

JESSICA continues to coach missionaries and interns in developing a partnership team for prayer and financial support. She spends about thirty hours a week connecting with them, encouraging them, praying for them, and equipping them for ministry. She is also pursuing a certification as a spiritual director through Denver Seminary. This program has been a great source of joy and growth for her during this season. *Prayer: that I (Jessica) can balance work, school, and family with wisdom and grace, especially from January through May, which is my busiest time of year with launching summer interns. I really desire to be present in life . . . seeing and hearing who I am with and not just running through my day.*

ALI (16, junior in high school) is involved in a lot of activities and is taking some difficult classes. She is also growing in her responsibilities as she heads towards more independence and adulthood. One of the things she has started initiating more is inviting friends over for game nights, including students from her high school and sometimes other Cadence kids. We have loved hosting groups of teens in our house again to eat food, play games, and have interesting conversations. *Prayer: I (Ali) need good grades because I want to get into good schools for Aerospace Engineering, so pray for me to try hard and for God to cover the rest.*

MASAMI (15, freshman in high school) is just as active as his sister. In fact, when he began high school this year, it was fun to hear that people would see Ali and say, "You're Masami's sister, right?" He has also had friends over more regularly. After a successful season of marching band, he is now trying to find a job to make money for his band trip coming up in the spring and to buy a PS5 (video game system). We are excited about this purchase, as we could



I have started multiple fires (don't worry, all metaphorical): leaning into the worship pastor role at our church more, applying for substitute teaching in our local public high school, getting trained in a leadership framework for personal growth and mentoring others, and communicating with you, our team, the need for finances and discernment as we minister with Cadence. My life has been a scary, beautiful, frustrating, and providential journey as I've floated like a high, slow, and unpredictable hot air balloon. When I (and our family) have

possibly use it with the college small group we hope to start in the new year. *Prayer: I (Masami) would like to have college students over, kinda like we had people over at the Graf House, so please pray that happens.*

ELISE (7, second grade) is just a bundle of attention-seeking joy. She sings, dances, and tries to baby talk (or any other talk she can use) her way into the hearts and lives of everyone she meets. Her desire for play dates and connection has afforded us the opportunity to develop relationships with other parents and families all over Denver. *Prayer: Keep us and all my (Elise's) friends safe and healthy.*

I (ANTHONY) was recently given an image from someone in our church. It was during a prayer time to seek direction from the Lord. The image was a hot air balloon. I started the fire to raise the balloon in the air, and then I let go. Sitting in the basket, I trusted the Spirit to blow the balloon around wherever I needed to go. This word has really been an affirmation and a blessing in this current season of life.

wanted answers in all these areas immediately, God has waited for the right time to blow us in the direction we've needed to go.

I started substitute teaching at Ali and Masami's high school on November 9, and I plan to work a couple of days a week to supplement our income and minister to local teens. The staff are very excited about my presence there, and the students are responding well. I had a paraprofessional teacher tell me she had never seen a class remain so calm when a substitute was there. *Prayer: that the Spirit continues to use me to bring peace, stability, and a loving relationship with the students, and that I don't rely on my spirit of sarcasm to handle them; for God to provide while I focus on raising support through March 2024; and for discernment with our finances, so I will know how much time to devote to Cadence ministry and what that will look like.*

Gratefully,
Anthony and Jessica



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PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Anthony & Jessica Amor

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