These four works of art are at the heart of the Christian faith—in them you can see our stunned inadequacy in the face of divine love, and the mystery of divine (and for that matter human) suffering. Art is saying something…about salvation coming at a high cost to Jesus or frank in that we are almost terrified when faced with God. But through all of them, there is still a consistent image of God as with us, despite our inadequacies, and for us, despite our unworthiness. They are all profoundly comforting, and profoundly disturbing. And could one say anything better about a work of faith art? A visit to the Nelson Christian art collection could be the source of much discussion!

Henry Ossawa Tanner’s *Annunciation* (an American black artist) is frank about Mary's immaturity, and amazing in its portrayal of an angel who is both beautiful and terrible.

*The Deposition* from the Cross by Caravaggio (Italian, 17th century), is just stunningly beautiful, with truly anguished followers of Christ, dirt under their nails, preparing to lower his body, heavy with death, into darkness.

*Crucifixion* 1914 by Ernst Stoehr (Austrian). has Jesus crucified among the solid, respectable Christian folk of a prosperous German village, all of them apparently very pious but absolutely unable to see that his feet are only two inches off the ground—they worship, but don't make any effort to set him free.