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## Embellished Arch

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# Heidelberg Catechism Question 54

*Abby Smoker (Psychology 2023)*

then Father, preserve me  
 take these fresh fruits i pile beside Your throne  
 take this tree i strive to upkeep before You  
 and petrify it, douse it in resin  
 gather those fruits in large pots and labor over them  
 keep them as jams, sweeten them so they may never spoil  
 then Father! gather me up  
 the tornado of notes and endless words and newborn plans  
 the heartstrings ever requiring tuning  
 run Your red yarn between them, lift them  
 into midair, collect them  
 like postcards You are warmed to receive.  
 then Father, defend!  
 where my shaking hands cannot prop the shield into place  
 where my watchdogs miss, distracted by passing cars  
 where life slips through my fingers  
 because i forget to oil the joints  
 lend me Your shades, that i may see  
 You alone, and You in everything  
 and You in everyone.

**embellished arch**

*Emily Frith (Studio Art 2026)*

