

Cover Artist's Statement

Rachel Braun

Gates of Jerusalem (2004)

*Blackwork embroidery: cotton floss on cotton Aida cloth
finished size 7" x 7"*

Jewish liturgy and sacred writings abound in images of gates, as portals to God's presence, to holiness, to repentance, and to creation. In this embroidery pattern, text from Psalm 122 ("our feet standing in your gates, Jerusalem") frames the eight gates of the city of Jerusalem, including the sealed Golden (*Rachamim*) Gate portrayed in the center left of the piece. The psalm celebrates the joy of the Biblical pilgrims to Jerusalem, offers verses of thanksgiving to God, and prays for the peace of the city.

The embroidered text includes these verses from Psalm 122 (translation from *Songs Ascending* by Rabbi Richard N. Levy):

- ¹ *A Song of Ascendings. Of David.
I rejoice when they say to me:
"We are going up to the House of Adonai" –*
- ² *Our feet standing
In your gates, Jerusalem,*
- ³ *Jerusalem rebuilt,
Like a city joined together!*
- ⁴ *For up to it tribes would travel,
The tribes of Yah – testimony for Israel,
To sing praise to the name Adonai.*
- ⁵ *For there sat seats for judgment,
Thrones for the House of David.*
- ⁶ *Pray for the peace of the City of Peace:
May those who love you find repose.*
- ⁷ *May there be peace in your palace,
Respite on your ramparts.*

<https://www.rachelbraun.net>

Photographed by Philip Brookman