

# A Community Blessing of our Home Labyrinth

Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion

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When my husband and I moved in 2019, we were grateful to find a home with space for a chapel with a labyrinth. Labyrinth designer Lisa Moriarty helped us to settle on a modified five-circuit Chartres-style design with a sixteen-foot diameter to grace the chapel floor of Hope Haven West, located in the western suburbs of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.



## *The Labyrinth Design*

A rug-making firm in Nepal was recommended to us. They agreed to create a circular wool carpet using a loop and pile technique. The weavers were unfamiliar with labyrinths but assured us that they could copy the design that we had sent. After considering many colors that would harmonize with the environment outside the windows of the chapel and the interior of our home, we chose a light blue with neutral cream accents for the pathways and a darker blue for the rest of the labyrinth.



*Weaving on  
the floor in  
Nepal*

After months of reviewing weaving sample squares, clarifying details of the labyrinth pattern, and experiencing early pandemic delays in work and shipping, the labyrinth arrived at our door.



We put down a carpet pad to help hold it in place and then experienced the joy of seeing it unfurled for the first time.



Due to Covid-19 related lockdown restrictions, we couldn't share the labyrinth for months. Once things opened up, we made sure it was listed on the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator. Then, as people became open to joining together in community, we invited friends to come and formally dedicate the labyrinth rug using the ritual that follows.

### **Labyrinth Dedication: Hope Haven West**

Jill: Peace be to this home and peace be to this labyrinth and all who enter them in the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.  
Amen.

Jill: God, we think of how this circle reminds us of your eternal love.

*All: For that love we give You thanks.*

J: When we see anything beautiful – a tree, a child, a glowing sunrise, a pattern of hope – we know we can gaze through it and find You.

*A: Your loveliness amazes us!*

J: Gathering together, we remember that You created each one of us. As we take time to look at one another (please look around at who is here with you!) our hearts fill with gratitude for companions, old and new, to share the journey of life.

*A: For Your presence embodied in individuals and community, we say, Thank You!*

J: Life has a way of bringing forth anxiety, brokenness, confusion, discouragement, fear, grief, hopelessness, illness, loss, sorrow, weakness, weariness... You know how much this world needs what we can find on this path as we walk with You – peace, hope, connection, perspective, safety, inspiration. We thank you for these gifts that await those who will come and pray here, as well as...

*Community: [Offer one word that describes a need you hope this path will address.*

*Feel free to use one of these... awe, comfort, courage, encouragement, friendship, forgiveness, guidance, gratitude, growth, reconciliation, refreshment, renewal, perseverance, seeking, sorrow, strength, thanksgiving, vitality, wholeness, wisdom...]*

J: May hospitality draw walkers and prayers to the doorways of this home and labyrinth.

*A: May those who live and come here know this as a safe place, full of understanding and acceptance.*

J: May we step into new visions and discoveries here.

*A: May this home and labyrinth be places where Your will comes into focus.*

J: May all who come to this home and labyrinth find themselves in the flow of Your Holy Spirit, leading, guiding, strengthening, and inspiring.

*A: May we perceive Your loveliness with all of who we are – our eyes, the soles of our feet, our ears, our breath, heartbeats, muscles, minds, and sense of balance.*

J: May this home and labyrinth be spaces of mercy.

*A: May they be safe havens of renewal when the tumults of life threaten to overwhelm.*

J: May Hope Haven West and this labyrinth be full of experiences of faith, hope, and love.

*A: May this home and labyrinth be places of deep connection, hearty laughter, and forgiveness.*

J: When silence and stillness call,

*A: May people respond, coming here to contemplate.*

J: When transformation stalls, and life seems too difficult to bear,

*A: May longings, tears, and sighs be met here with Presence.*

J: Please join me in singing *Walking the Labyrinth*, a song that takes us through the various stages of labyrinth walk with its inherent blessings. [See below]

*All sing.*

J: Now, as you are comfortable, I invite you to place your hands on the labyrinth or to raise them toward the labyrinth. Tune into the sensation of your heart beating.

Listen for the answer to the question, “What is my desire for this labyrinth?” If you wish to pray it aloud, please do so now.

*(Spontaneous prayers as people feel led to offer them.)*

J: God, You know our visions for this home and labyrinth; we offer them to You tonight so that they can become even more Yours.

*A: We remain open to Your surprising leadings, asking that Your will be done.*

J: We dedicate this labyrinth to You, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, offering all these prayers in the precious name of Jesus, the Christ,

*A: Amen*



*The author  
explaining  
labyrinth prayer  
at the dedication  
service*

**Walking the Labyrinth**  
*(Tune: DIX (For the Beauty of the Earth))*

To your open mouth we come,  
pausing with expectancy.  
Posing questions, praying dreams,  
gath'ring courage, hope and faith,  
Circle, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

Stepping in, the way is sure,  
Pacing comes in its own time.  
Breathing slows, awareness dawns,  
Trusting, longing fill our hearts.  
Pathway, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

In the center we are held,  
deeply knowing, deeply known.  
Healing, wholeness rising up,  
Wisdom, insight overflow.  
Center, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

Back we go, the way we came,  
Weaving, winding in and out.  
Moving t'ward the world beyond,  
Op'ning hearts to needs perceiv'd.  
Pathway, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

Once outside we gaze within,  
wond'ring at the peace we know.  
Spending moments filled with awe,  
taking leave with strength renewed.  
Circle, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

*Text: Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion ©1998  
Dedicated with gratitude to Madeleine Sue Martin.*



***The Hope Haven West Chapel Labyrinth***

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# LABYRINTH PATHWAYS

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15<sup>th</sup> Edition : November 2021

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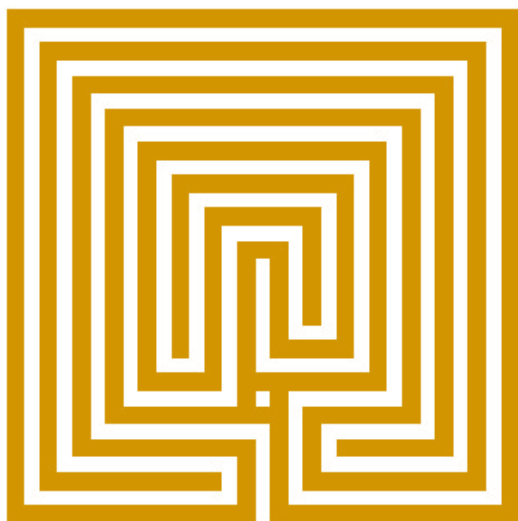
15<sup>th</sup> Edition : November 2021



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*Labyrinth Pathways is published annually  
Produced by and © Labyrinthos and  
individual authors and contributors as appropriate, 2021*



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*Focusing on  
the Labyrinth  
in Spirituality  
Health & the Arts*

*Established 2007  
Published Annually*

*Produced by & © Labyrinthos 2021*