



Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Sanctified Art

**November 28, 2021**

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Liturgy adapted from Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

**Prelude**

Evan O'Donovan

**Call to Worship**

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

**We are homesick for a just world,  
for peace like rivers,  
for the end of suffering.**

Yes, we are homesick—

**for joy that is contagious,  
for nations that feel like neighbors,  
and for hospitals that run empty.**

We are homesick for the world God promises.

**We are homesick, but we are on our way.**

**God is here. God is still creating.**

**Let us worship Holy God.**

**Hymn**

*Praise Ye the Lord Almighty*

**#35**

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Purcell Family

**Call to Confession**

**Unison Confession**

**Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day—to stay homesick for the world You had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**Confession Response**

*Make of My Heart a Stable* by Amanda Udis-Kessler (2021)

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## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

**All: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Hymn

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
(vs. 1)

#83

**Affirmation of Faith:** (excerpt from *Brief Statement of Faith* )

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture**

*Luke 21:25-36*

*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

**Sermon**

Pastor Erin

**Offering invitation**

**Offertory**

**Dedication**

**\*Doxology**

We lift our voices,  
we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to You;  
We are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices;  
Lord, use our hands;  
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours;  
We are an offering.  
All that we have,  
All that we are,  
All that we hope to be,  
we give to You, we give to You.  
We lift our voices,  
We lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to You;  
We are an offering, we are an offering.

Hymn

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

#144

**Blessing**

# Make Of My Heart A Stable

♩ = 106

Amanda Udis-Kessler

C Am F2 C Dm Em Am7 F2 G

8 C C Am F2 C Dm

Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy  
 Make of my life a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy  
 Make of our church a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy

14 Em Am7 F2 G C

place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.  
 place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.  
 place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.

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## ***Artist Statement***

### ***Awake to Wonder***

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 21:25-36

It is peculiar that we begin Advent with adult Jesus offering us a prophecy and parable filled with fear and mystery. This particular scripture is within a longer section of Jesus describing the coming destruction of the temple, a public statement that no doubt added to the conspiracies and plots stirring against him. The fate he speaks of is filled with terrifying details: the temple demolished, false prophets, wars and uprisings, food shortages, natural disasters, persecution, and epidemics (Luke 21:5-24). As we read these words now, this litany of fear and foreboding feels far too familiar—a bit too close to home.

When I began this series of visuals, I printed an architectural blueprint on a large piece of cardstock. Using acrylic paint, I added fluid strokes of blue, obscuring the white lines in the blueprint so that the plans for building a home would appear present but also blurred and concealed. I added hints of gold leaf, trying to emulate the texture of paint peeling from the exterior of a building. I then shifted to digital media, photographing the painting from a number of angles and then drawing figures and details into my compositions with my stylus and iPad. As I began this particular image, I imagined a scene of chaos and apocalypse. However, as I drew a woman lifting her head and reaching for the fig tree, I began to see a vision of beauty and hope, a glimpse of one's whole being awake to wonder.

I think we all share a collective homesickness. It feels like nostalgia. It looks like the trauma hiding in our past. It can turn into foreboding fear that robs us of real joy. But in this image and in Jesus' words, I see a call to resilience despite the difficult realities that confront us. I see a longing so deep that it keeps us reaching—for a home restored, for comfort renewed, for the fruit that is sure to come.