



Hannah Garrity | Sanctified Art

December 19, 2021

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Prelude

Evan O'Donovan

Call to Worship

Elder Al Shipley

We are seeking—
deeper faith,
a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking—
joy that overflows,
the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking—
the freedom to be,
the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space,
we are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.
God is here. We are found. Amen.

Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#123

Advent Candle Lighting

Kennedy Family

Call to Confession

Unison Confession

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way You would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love. Rest in this promise: If we get lost, we will be found. If we mess up, we are forgiven. If we withhold love, God is lavish in loving us.

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

What Child is This?

#145

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you!**

Affirmation of Faith: *Apostles' Creed*

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer**Scripture**

Luke 1:39-55

Luke 1:46b-55:16

Sermon

Pastor Erin

Offering Invitation**Offertory Song*****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.

Dedication

Hymn

Away in a Manger

#114

Blessing**Postlude**

Make Of My Heart A Stable

♩ = 106

Amanda Udis-Kessler

C Am F2 C Dm Em Am7 F2 G

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major). The time signature is 4/4. The first measure contains a triplet of eighth notes in the treble clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, Am, F2, C, Dm, Em, Am7, F2, G.

8 C C Am F2 C Dm

8

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

Musical notation for the second system, including a treble and bass clef. It features three lines of lyrics. The first measure of the treble clef has a triplet of eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, C, Am, F2, C, Dm.

14 Em Am7 F2 G C

14

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.

Musical notation for the third system, including a treble and bass clef. It features three lines of lyrics. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, Am7, F2, G, C.

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Artist Statement

Dances for Joy

by Hannah Garrity

inspired by Luke 1:39-45

As I worked through the creative process for this image, I was talking to my mother and showing her my inspiration board: images of babies in the womb, spinning or cuddling. She said that John dancing for joy in his mother's womb is one of her favorite biblical images. I thought back to my study abroad in Glasgow, Scotland, at the Glasgow School of Art. I spent every day in a studio designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Through windows the height of almost two stories, light poured into the room.

I was interested in childbirth that year. I asked the local hospital if I could view one. They said, no, legitimately citing privacy concerns. Childbirth is rightfully a protected and private time—a time when women, the possessors of the womb, choose to use their bodies for the delivery of the children of God. As a woman in my early twenties, I had no plans of having children anytime soon. Truly, I was intrigued by the way we hide the earthy, natural, bloody parts of the process. All semester I painted fetuses, newborns crowning, mothers birthing alone. They were dancing in the womb. They were emerging from the womb. They were patterns in a collage of orphaned children due to the AIDS epidemic. They were an American flag interwoven with articles of the strain of American military action on children overseas. They were newborns, still bloody, painted on patterned fabric with the stories of Peter Rabbit and the cow jumping over the moon. I even made a paint by number children's book explaining the stages of childbirth. The clash of a facade of perfection and the tangible reality was and is ever-present in my every day.

Here the globe is drawn as the background flow of the image. This long view of the world acknowledges the earthy, bloody, tangible, pouring-out reality that Mary and Elizabeth will soon embody to bear their sons. There is so much liquid everywhere. The central story of the text emerges as John dances with joy in his mother's womb of this world. Around him the patterns of his baptisms flow outward into the miracles of Jesus, woven into the flow of landforms and waters on the map.

Comparison is the thief of joy, my cousin tells me. God's children need us to dance for joy when we encounter one another. Where in my daily routines can I remove the facade of perfection, or break through it, and embrace the tangible reality of a beautiful and wonderful, earthy joy?