

First Sunday of
ADVENT



Lisle Gwynn Garrity © A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
December 1, 2024

Artist Reflection

Awake to Wonder

Digital painting with collage

By 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 card stock. 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.



Your presence today is a blessing to this parish. This bulletin has been created from the prayers found in *The Book of Common Prayer*, and it contains most of the spoken parts of worship. The blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew rack contains most of the hymns that are sung. You'll find words to the hymns that come from supplemental hymnals printed in this bulletin.

Voluntary

Announcements

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn	<i>All stand.</i>	Hymnal 1982 – 56
O come, O come, Emmanuel		<i>Veni, veni, Emmanuel</i>

Opening Acclamation	BCP p. 355
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The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trisagion *See pew card for music.* Alexander Archangelsky
The following is sung three times, all standing.

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lessons

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

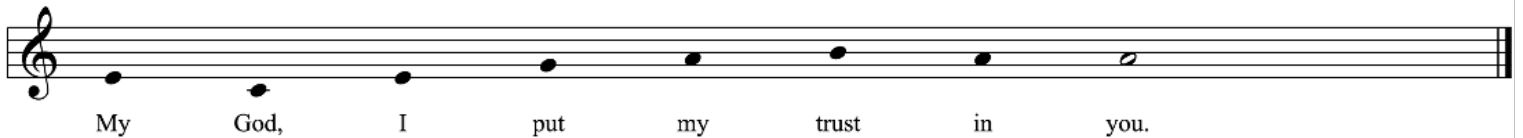
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Remain seated. The choir first introduces the Antiphon, then the congregation joins the choir in singing the Antiphon each time.

ANTIPHON: My God, I put my trust in you.



From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

ANTIPHON

- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long. **ANTIPHON**

- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. **ANTIPHON**

7 Gracious and upright are you, O Lord; *
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

8 You guide the humble in doing right *
and teach your way to the lowly.

9 All your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

ANTIPHON

The people remain seated.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for

you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

All stand.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 1982 – 64

O heavenly Word, eternal Light

O Heiland, reiss

The Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

All stand.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man

coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Reverend Nancy L.J. Cox

The Nicene Creed

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the

**dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All remain standing.

The Prayers of the People

From Hear Our Prayer, by Jon White and Lisa Graves

Intercessor: Faithful God, we offer our prayers in hopeful anticipation of your response as we say, “*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*”

Your church waits in anticipation for the fulfillment of your promises, grant us perseverance and urgency to continue Christ’s mission as we await His return. *Silence.*

Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Sow the seeds of your love throughout this nation, that our people and leaders might work towards building a society where all people have an equitable place and the opportunity to thrive.
Silence.

Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: As we enter into this season of anticipation, grant this congregation a discerning spirit that we might confidently follow where you are leading us, be beacons of hope, and a place of refuge for our neighbors. *Silence.*

Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Your creation cries out from the devastation wrought by our unsustainable use of its resources, show us how we might change and advocate for a holy stewardship of the natural world. *The people are invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Open our hearts to know the suffering of those who are sick, afraid, alone, or oppressed: grant them relief, healing, and wholeness and show us how to be present with them. *The people are invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.*

Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Grant to the dying peace and rest in your loving care: and grant to us and them an entrance into the resurrected life of Christ. *Silence.*

Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Celebrant: Hear the hopes and needs of your people and respond; keep your people in your grace just as you always have. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns. *Silence.*

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 359

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

BCP p. 360

All stand

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

A note about receiving Holy Communion: In the Episcopal Church, we understand that Christ is “really present” in the bread and wine provided from God’s table. All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand from the first person who comes to you. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. You may drink from the larger cup/ chalice which the next person will offer you. Receive the consecrated wine by guiding the offered cup to your lips and sipping, or by intinction: lightly dip the wafer into the wine. Those who distribute the wine will wipe the chalice with a food safe sanitizer and turn it for the next person after each person receives. You may also decide to take the wafer only. If you choose not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing as your presence is a blessing to all of us. Once you have been blessed or received communion, you may offer a short prayer and then return to your seat. If physical limitations make it difficult to come forward, please let an usher know that we may have the honor of bringing communion to you.

Offertory Sentence

BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Anthem

André Thomas

Keep your lamps

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary,
'Til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over,
The time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
The time is drawing nigh.

“Keep your lamps” words & music Traditional/arr. André Thomas
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Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

BCP p. 367

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Celebrant adds a proper preface.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *See pew card for music.* Russian Orthodox

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for

many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

Russian Orthodox

See pew card for music.

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your

sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei

Russian Orthodox

See pew card for music.

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world, **give us your peace.**

Invitation

BCP p. 364

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those worshipping virtually to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Communion Hymns

Once he came in blessing

Hymnal 1982 – 53
Gottes Sohn ist kommen

O day of God, draw nigh

Hymnal 1982 – 601
St. Michael

Lay Eucharistic Minister Prayer *(as needed)*

Celebrant: In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist,
_____ will take the Eucharist to _____ today.

All: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your son our Savior Jesus Christ,**

**and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

BCP p. 366

Post-Communion Hymn

WLP – 721

Signs of ending all around us

Ton-y-Botel

1 Signs of endings all around us –
darkness, death, and winter days
shroud our lives in fear and sadness,
numbing mouths that long to praise.
Come, O Christ, and dwell among us!
Hear our cries, come set us free.
Give us hope and faith and gladness.
Show us what there yet can be.

2 Can it be that from our endings,
new beginnings you create?
Life from death, and from our rendings,

realms of wholeness generate?
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them
into hopes for life anew:
Fading light and dying season
sing their Glorias to you.

3 Speak, O God, your Word among us.
Barren lives your presence fill.
Swell our hearts with songs of gladness,
terrors calm forebodings still.
Let your promised realm of justice
blossom now throughout the earth;
your dominion bring now near us;
we await the saving birth.

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

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A Note on Today's Readings

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church. On the first Sunday in Advent, the liturgy is concerned with our preparation for the return of Christ at the end of time. The Gospel reading today is a portion of Jesus' words concerning that time. He tells us to see the events of history as signs of the approaching end and to recognize that end as the coming of our redemption.

The Old Testament reading today from the prophet Jeremiah looks forward to the time when God will fulfill the promise of a successor to David. The New Testament Christians understood the "righteous Branch" of David's line to be our Lord Jesus Christ. The second reading is from Paul's first Thessalonian letter. His letters to that church were prompted by difficulties in that congregation due to their misunderstanding of the Lord's promise to return. In today's reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to see their ministry and mutual love as the way to prepare for the Lord's return.

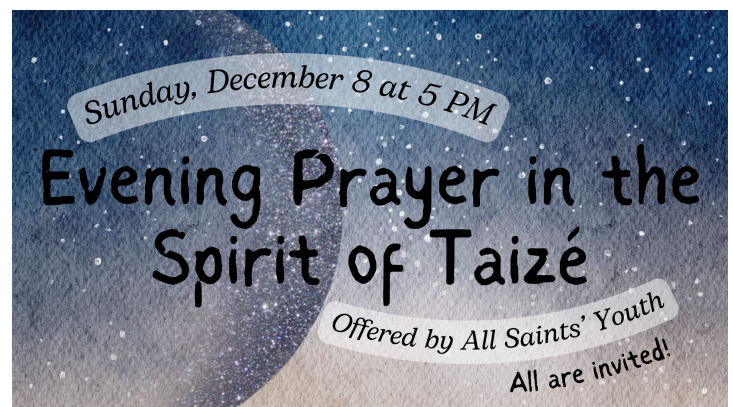
There is an "already, but not yet" aspect to the New Testament's discussion of the Lord's return. God's Kingdom is not limited to a time in the far off future; it began breaking into human history in Jesus' death and resurrection. The Lord comes to judge and to save in each moment in the life of his people. Above all, he is revealed in our encounter with him in the Eucharistic meal.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

Today's Announcements

Sunday school for all ages is at 10 AM. Nursery for infants-3 year olds is provided every Sunday from 8:45 AM-12:30 PM. EYC meets on Sundays from 4:30-6:45 PM.

You are invited to participate in Advent Small Groups! We're reading and discussing *Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. Questions? Contact Chuck Collier.



Mark your calendar for these upcoming Advent activities:

- Advent Quiet Morning – Saturday, December 14, 8:30-Noon, for all women. *Sign up in Realm.*
- Advent Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 15 at 5 PM, offered by the Choir of All Saints'
- Toys for Tots Donation Drive – Now through Thursday, December 19. Donation box is in the Welcome Center.



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REPORTING TO THE VESTRY

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For announcements and information,
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All Saints' Weekly Word.



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