

Family Service
EASTER VIGIL



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

April 19, 2025

Artist Reflection

Status Quo

Paper lace

By Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 24:1-12

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.” (Luke 24:1-3, NRSV)

I recently read *Art and Faith* by Makoto Fujimura. Fujimura speaks of the beauty in particular moments in scripture: when the women enter the tomb, and when Mary, sister of Martha, pours oil over Jesus before his journey to the cross. Fujimura draws attention to these texts to anchor a discussion of the importance of beauty in faithful practice. God placed beautiful things on earth for us to give back to God in glory. We must consider when, where, why, and how we engage beauty. We must engage with beauty in our faithful practice.

In this paper lace art piece, the inside of a bowl is patterned with images telling the initial moments of the Easter story. This design depicts burial spices in patterns. Amidst the spice patterns, a sunrise emerges. At the top is an abstract image of the empty tomb. This moment, the moment when the women arrive at the tomb, represents an act of holy, extravagant, expansive beauty. Imagine being there, arriving at daybreak, holding the spice bowl in your hands. The burial spices, nard and myrrh, were aromatic. The aromas of blood, oils, death, and spices fill the air. Imagine how it would have smelled. It was the work of the women to honor the body of the deceased; to honor the life he had lived, and they had loved. How might we honor God with our practices of beauty? What materials do we need to gather and incorporate? How can we keep God centered in our creative endeavors?



The Great Vigil of Easter comes to us from early Christian times and proclaims the universal significance of God's saving acts in history. The service begins in the darkness of night. In kindling the new fire and lighting the paschal candle, we are reminded that Christ came as a light shining in darkness (John 1:5). The paschal candle is a symbol for Jesus Christ and is carried in procession – symbolically reminding us we are the pilgrim people of God following the "pillar of fire" given to us in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. The Paschal candle will continue to burn throughout the Great Fifty Days of Easter and is used during the year at services of Baptism and Burial.

In the darkness, the new fire is kindled.

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ: Tonight, we gather in prayer to remember the night when Jesus passed over from death to life. This is the Passover of the Lord. By hearing the words of Scripture, remembering our Baptism, and celebrating the Eucharist, we share in Jesus' victory over death.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have given your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire and grant that in celebrating together this Paschal feast we may be drawn into your everlasting light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the Parish Hall, pausing three times, saying:

Deacon: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lights are lit throughout the congregation, except for those at the Altar. The Paschal candle is placed in its stand.

The Deacon then says the Exultet:

Deacon: Sing choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Sing choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
Sing church of God! Rejoice the victory's won!
Let all God's people shout Amen!

People: Amen!

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

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

Deacon: It is right and good, always and everywhere, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who has delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our forebearers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and humanity is reconciled to God. May Christ, who gives light to all creation, shine continually to drive away all darkness. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The second part of the vigil consists of a series of readings from the Old Testaments. These lessons provide a panorama of what God has done for humanity. We are reminded of the great flood and God's promise to Noah that never again would he destroy all life, we are reminded of our delivery from bondage in the Exodus, and of God's calling us to faithfulness through the cry of the prophets. Later we will read of God dwelling among us in Jesus Christ, and of Christ's rising in victory from the tomb. The readings thus retell our "holy history" as God's children, summarizing the faith into which we are baptized.

Celebrant: Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God has saved the people of God in the past, and let us pray for ourselves and our world, that we may know the fullness of God's saving power.

The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:8-18; 9:8-13

Arky, arky

Jonathan Macintosh

The Lord said to Noah
There's gonna be a floody, floody,
Lord said to Noah
There's gonna be a floody, floody,
Get those children out of the muddy, muddy,
Children of the Lord.

The Lord told Noah
To built him an arky, arky
The Lord told Noah
To built him an arky, arky
Build it out of hickory barky, barky,
Children of the Lord.

The animals, the animals
They came in by twosies, twosies,
Animals, the animals
They came in by twosies, twosies,
Elephants and kangaroosies roosies,
Children of the Lord

It rained and poured
For forty daysies, daysies,
It rained and poured
For forty daysies, daysies,
Almost drove those animals crazies, crazies,
Children of the Lord.

The sun came out
And it dried up the landy, landy,
The sun came out
It dried up the landy, landy
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy,
Children of the Lord.

So rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory,
Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory,
Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory,
Children of the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have placed the rainbow in the sky as the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may offer to you our own thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea Exodus 14:10–15:1

Go Down, Moses Hymnal 1982 – 648

When Israel was in Egypt land
Let my people go!
Oppressed so hard, they could not stand
Let my people go!
Go down Moses
Way down in Egypt land
Tell old Pharaoh
To let my people go

The Lord told Moses what to do,
Let my people go
To lead the children of Israel through,
Let my people go
Go down Moses
Way down in Egypt land
Tell old Pharaoh
To let my people go

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you once delivered your chosen people
from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of
the salvation of all nations by the water of
Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth

may rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The valley of dry bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Celebrant: Let us pray. *Silence.*

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you
have brought out of death into life: Grant that all
who are sealed by your Holy Spirit will have the
will and the power to tell others about you, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

In the natural world, water brings both life and death. It nurtures crops, sustains life, and cleans our bodies, but can also cause drowning. So also there is death and life in Baptism, for in Baptism we die to sin and are raised to life. Baptism unites believers together in Christ's death and resurrection. In the earliest years of the Christian church, baptism only took place at the Easter Vigil, the great celebration of God's victory over death in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and
renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

The people are sprinkled with holy water.

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who has forgiven our sins and
given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
keep us in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

The First Holy Eucharist of Easter

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The people ring bells.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you made this holy night to shine with the glory of the
Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit given to us
in Baptism, that renewed in body and mind, we may worship you
in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and

reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

All stand.

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory Song Blessing, honor, glory to the lamb

Blessing, honor, glory to the lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Blessing, honor, glory to the lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold him down for he is risen.
Seated upon the throne he is the Lamb of God.

Blessing, honor, glory to the lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Blessing, honor, glory to the lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold him down for he is risen.
Seated upon the throne he is the Lamb of God.

“Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb”

Words and music by David Reidy, Geoff Bullock

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Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

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

Eucharistic Prayer Form 1

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn:

Sanctus

Land of Rest

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name, comes in the
name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

“Holy, holy, holy Lord/Mercy Sanctus” words & music Marilyn Haskell

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The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

We now celebrate, O God, the memorial of Christ our Savior. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of Christ's death, and proclaim the resurrection, until Christ comes in glory.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in the Risen One, and make us a living sacrifice of praise.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory and praise, forever and ever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Fraction Anthem

Music By Heart #45

The bread which we break **Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!**
Is the sharing of the body of Christ **Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!**
We being many are one bread. **Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!**
We being many are one body **Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!**
For we all share in one bread **Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!**
For we all share in one bread **Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!**

Invitation

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.**

Music at Eucharist

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live for ever.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Give Praise to his Name.

Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give Praise to his Name.

“Alleluia No. 1 (Alleluia Alleluia Give Thanks” words and music by Donald E. Fishel
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The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

**God of abundance,
you have fed with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Easter Blessing

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Closing Song

How Majestic is Your Name

O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth.

Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise Your name! O Lord, we magnify Your name;

Prince of Peace, Mighty God, O Lord God Almighty

O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth.

Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise Your name! O Lord, we magnify Your name;

Prince of Peace, Mighty God, O Lord God Almighty.

“How majestic is your name” words and music by Michael W. Smith

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