

## A Lenten Devotional

A Sanctified Art LLC is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshipping communities. The Sanctified Art team works collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. Their mission is to empower churches with resources to inspire creativity in worship and beyond. Driven by the connective and prophetic power of art, they believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God.

Learn more about their work at  
[sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



Tell me  
something  
good

Grounding ourselves in  
the good news this Lent



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Art, reflections, &  
poetry for the  
season of Lent





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Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this Lenten devotional, we studied what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.

Jesus' ministry can be described as “radical” which comes from the Latin word “radicalis,” meaning “root” or “ground.” Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be “good news” people in a world too often burdened by bad news?

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

We invite you to journey through this devotional at your own pace, as each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to ground you in the good news. This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

Artfully yours,  
**The Sanctified Art Creative Team**

Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity  
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed  
Hannah Garrity  
Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman  
Rev. Anna Strickland

# About the SA creative team

## Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity Founder | Creative Director of SA

Lisle Gwynn Garrity (*she/her*) is a Pastorist (pastor + artist) and creative entrepreneur seeking to fill the church with more color, paint, mystery, and creativity. She founded A Sanctified Art with the conviction that, in order to thrive, the church needs more creative expression and art-filled freedom.

## Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman Director of Branding | Founding Creative Partner of SA

Lauren (*she/her*) is an artist, graphic designer, and theologian. She uses paint, metallic inks, and Apple pencil to image the layered complexity she experiences in scripture texts. As the Director of Branding, she visually packages, designs, and formats all of the Sanctified Art materials.

## Hannah Garrity Founding Creative Partner of SA

Hannah (*she/her*) is an artist and an athlete, a daughter and a mother, a facilitator and a producer, a leader and a teammate. She is the Director of Christian Faith, Life, and Arts at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA, an art in worship workshop leader wherever she is called, and a liturgical installation artist at the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC.

## Rev. Sarah A. Speed Founding Creative Partner of SA

Sarah (Are) Speed (*she/her*) is the Head of Staff/Senior Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, MO. Sarah feels called to welcome people into the church by using her energy and passion for beautifully scripted words, raw and relevant liturgy, and hands-on worship experiences to engage our longing for God and the need for justice in this messy world.

## Rev. Anna Strickland Creative Partner | Operations Support

Anna Strickland (*she/her*) looks for the Divine in the everyday like treasure in clay jars and first encountered God in the integration of her spiritual self and artistic self. She is a former teacher and college minister, a proud Texas Longhorn and graduate of Iliff School of Theology, a Baptist to the core ministering in ecumenical spaces, and a lover of chaos anchored by the belief that the Spirit is most active in the spaces between us.

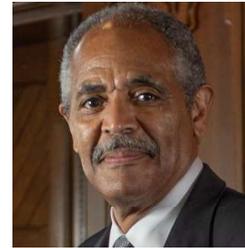
# About our guest contributors



## Guest Writers

### Rev. Brian Blount, PhD

Brian K. Blount (*he/him*) is President Emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC. Professor Blount's primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation, and in the areas of cultural studies, biblical hermeneutics, and apocalyptic theology. [briankblount.com](http://briankblount.com)



### Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail

Rev. Lizzie (*she/her*) is known for her passionate, fierce, and colorful reclamation of Christianity as a writer, priest, online creative, and proud mom of two. She's living her dream as the founding planter of Jubilee Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas! [revlizzie.com](http://revlizzie.com)



## Guest Artists

### Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Denise (*she/her*) is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Director for Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries at the Presbyterian Mission Agency. A graduate of Howard University School of Divinity, she is the former Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). [@tdandersonart](https://twitter.com/tdandersonart)



### Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Carmelle (*she/her*) is a Haitian-American multidisciplinary artist whose visual lexicon fuses gestural abstraction and theology to explore themes of diaspora, faith, and cultural memory. Borrowing her use of color from the vibrancy of Haitian artistic traditions, Carmelle's art pulses with movement and mysticism. [beaufoliostudio.com](http://beaufoliostudio.com)



### Rev. Nicolette Faison

Rev. Nicolette "Nic" (*she/her*) is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving as the Illinois Outreach Director for Faith in Place. She is passionate about queer Black liberation, cultivating diverse leadership in faith spaces, and the art of creation.



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*Throughout the season, return to these prompts to log all the ways you have experienced, enjoyed, & shared the good news of God.*

 *Good news I have heard and received:*

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 *Moments when I have enjoyed the goodness of God:*

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 *I have shared the good news by:*

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 *Everyday rituals that ground me in goodness:*

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## The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K Class

In Pre-K the whole class gets an invite to Tommy's birthday. He places the paper invites in our cubbies. There's a helter-skelter sticker

sealing each one, proof that tiny hands did the work. So we, the members of Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K class, arrive at the park on Saturday.

We arrive whether or not we've ever built a sandcastle with Tommy.

We arrive whether or not we've ever shared half of our PB&J at lunch.

We arrive at the park on Saturday, with pigtails and balloons, because we were *invited*.

And together we play tag, and we eat birthday cake, and we run barefoot in the grass.

Together, we sing *Happy birthday to youuuuuu*, so excited we can barely stand still.

Together, we momentarily forget that Chloe never gets picked for Red Rover and that Quinn cried in class last week, because the park is not the playground and everyone was invited.

And when we load into our cars at the end of the day, with grass-stained knees, chocolate frosting on our faces, and the awareness of inclusion, we say to our parents, *This was the best day of my life*.

Poem by  
Rev. Sarah Speed

Read Luke 14:15-24

Commentary | Rev. Dr. Brian Blount

### **Let Go of the Ordinary**

"Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the reign of God" (Luke 14:15). For the man who makes this proclamation, "anyone" is more expansive than he knows. He is thinking about people like himself—the well-positioned and well-to-do who invite peers to their parties. Persons self-important enough that when they enter they seek the highest seat so that they can be appropriately recognized. This is ordinary social behavior. This is why the householder in Jesus' parable starts out by inviting people like himself. He, too, does the ordinary. And all is well. Until his people decline his fabulous invitation in order to tend to their mundane affairs.

Humiliated, the householder repents of his ordinariness and leans into the extraordinary. He does not invite another lateral group of socialites, or those the next level down on the social ladder. Instead, he extends his welcome to those who have nothing. He declares his intent to share his feast and his company with those whom life has broken: "the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame." The paupers who have been banished from proper community will inherit the bounty that the high and mighty reject.

The reign of God is like that! It redefines the meaning of communal belonging. Ordinarily, the host of a banquet invites and serves the very people who have no need of the banquet's bounty. The extraordinary people who hope to emulate God's transcendent love invite into their company not just those who have, but those who need. They make the broken ones socially whole and physically welcome.

The season of Lent reminds us that God has extended such an extraordinary welcome. To us. In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God, holy beyond all human standing, invited us, in all of our brokenness, into the community of divine presence. Not because we earned a place, but because God created space. Lent offers us the opportunity to remove all the distractions and focus on the invitation. We are the broken. God is the householder. Jesus is the invitation. All we have to do is say "yes."

### Reflect

How are you responding to God's invitation this Lent?

