

# The Season of Lent



“Overturn”

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

## Advent Lutheran Church

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**“Love God, Serve Neighbor”**



## Again & Again: We Are Shown the Way

“Overturn”

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Inspired by John 2:13-22 | *Digital Painting with collage*

In 1965, my grandfather moved his family of six to Birmingham, AL, to become the new senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Situated downtown, First Pres sits only a few blocks away from 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the 1963 bombing attack by white supremacists who killed four young girls. Earlier that same year, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed eight prominent white clergy in his now famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” My grandfather’s predecessor was one of those clergy. They prompted King’s famous letter by requesting he appeal to law and order. In essence they said to him: *“We agree with your movement, but your methods are too harsh. The demonstrations are destructive and causing too much backlash. You’re bringing agitators into our city. Wait for a better time and negotiate gently.”*

This is the context in which my grandfather began his ministry with First Pres. While he helped the church change their policy to become open to worshipers of all races (a process that undoubtedly required much moral fortitude), I wonder how often he, too, felt the urge of his predecessor and the other white clergy who had written to Dr. King. I wonder how often he preferred for justice to happen slowly, gently, and in an orderly manner. I think often about how that urge lives in me too.

In this image, I wanted to freeze-frame the destruction Jesus ignites, forcing us as viewers to focus on the process of dismantling and destroying an oppressive system. For those who willingly or unwillingly benefit from systems of oppression, it may feel threatening and terrifying to see them all come tumbling down. But for those held within the unrelenting grip of injustice, it must be completely and utterly liberating.

Again and again, Jesus shows us that his movement is about overturning systems of oppression to bring forth God’s beloved community on earth. Again and again, liberation movements throughout history pursue this same goal. Will we join Jesus in the overturning, or like the disciples, question his methods?

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity



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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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### Pastoral Welcome

### Call to Worship

L: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,  
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**C: Lent calls us to journey:  
to the place where God meets with us,  
where we may know who we really are.**

L: Lent calls us to worship together,  
to tell future generations the good news.

**C: Lent calls us to practice justice,  
to bring God's hope to all people.**

L: Lent calls us to faithful living,  
to trust the One who gives us life.

**C: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,  
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

L: Lent calls us to journey with God.

**C: Let us worship God, who walks with us,  
this and every day.**

### Prelude

“Jesu”

Annette Nolan

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

L: God of compassion, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
In your great compassion blot out the stain of our transgressions. Wash  
us thoroughly from our guilt and cleanse us from our sin.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: God of compassion,

**C: We turn toward you and open our hearts.  
Forgive our pride and forgive our insecurities.  
Forgive our self-absorption and forgive our self-destruction.  
Forgive our doubts and forgive our confidence.  
Forgive our longing for attention and forgive our desire to hide.  
Forgive each step we take away from you.**

**L: May you know that the God of compassion, who is gracious beyond understanding and who loves beyond measure, has completely forgiven all your sins. With clean hearts and renewed spirits, live into the joy of God's salvation.**

**C: Amen.**

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Greeting

**L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**C: And also with you.**

### Prayer for Illumination

**L: Holy God,  
Startle us with your truth.  
Open our hearts and our minds to your wondrous love.  
Speak your word to us.  
Silence *in us* any voice but your own,  
and be *with us* now as we turn our attention,  
our minds and our hearts to you;  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**C: Amen.**

**The First Reading**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

**Don Hagerman**

# Gospel Acclamation

# "Jesus, Restore to Us Again"

Carol Riddell

♩

1. Je - sus, re - store to us a - gain the gos - pel of Your ho - ly

4 D F#m/C# Bm Em7 A<sup>sus</sup> D F#m/C# Bm Em7 A<sup>sus</sup>

name, that comes with pow'r not words a - lone, owned, signed and sealed from heav - en's

8 D Em7 A F#m7 Bm G Em7 A<sup>sus</sup>

throne. Spir - it and word in one a - greed; \_ the prom - ise to the pow - er wed. \_\_\_\_\_

13 A A/B Bm A A/G G Em7

— The word is near, here in our mouths and

16 G/D D D/A A F#m7 A/B Bm A

in our hearts, the word of faith; Pro - claim it on the

Last time to Coda ⊕

19 A/G G D/A A D G/D

Spir - it's breath: Je - sus! \_\_\_\_\_

The Gospel

Exodus 10:1-17

The Message

Rev. Sarah Are

Song of the Day

"At the Foot of the Cross"

Traven Harrington

## **Affirmation of Faith**

L: We believe that God is present  
in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over walls built to separate.

We believe in a *with-us* God,  
Jesus Christ,  
Who sits down in our midst  
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith  
that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability  
and onto the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks,  
live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those at the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Holy Spirit  
for God's new community of hope. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People of God**

L: Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus, cleanser of temples and of souls, at this mid point in the  
Lenten journey, look deep within our hearts and our lives, and clear  
away all that holds us back from completely giving ourselves to you.  
May our minds, spirits and bodies be a temple that is open to your  
presence, so that our words and our actions will be filled with your  
love and truth.

*A brief silence.*

L: Lord Jesus, you come to places of power and some are affronted at your audacity. Open the hearts of all leaders – in cities, states, nations and the world – to the challenge of your Kingdom . . . Revive us in your justice. In your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer**

L: Lord Jesus, you come to our lives with compassion and searching judgement. By your Holy Spirit, search our hearts, give us time to reflect on what is amiss and in repentance to seek your restoring grace . . . Create in us a fitting dwelling-place for your glory. In your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer**

L: Lord Jesus, we pray for those whom we know, for whom illness, frailness or bereavement have left them isolated and cut off from the joy, support and encouragement of human encounter. As we hold them up to you, show us how we may practically make a difference to those in need.

We especially pray for:

- Kathleen Basilice
- Trevor Basilice
- Lemont Bell
- Paul Coleman
- Dallas Collins
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Gazda
- Mary Jo Gouge
- Linda Hoffman
- Nylah Howard
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Robert & Kathryn Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Lucy Mullis
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- David Townsend
- Stephanie Vincent
- Herbert Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially, those we name now:

- Fran Whitaker, friend of Karen Schwartz
- Tanya Wilmore, cousin of Herbert Watson

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

L: Lord Jesus, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. We are grateful for the development of a vaccine and for those who are assisting in making it available. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience, worry, and dread, as we hunger for life to be normal again. Lord, hear our prayer,

**C: Hear our prayer**

L: Lord Jesus, by your life, death, and resurrection, you have restored us, sanctified us, and created us to be temples for your Holy Spirit to dwell. May our lives be places of holiness and hospitality for the world around us. Thanks be to God.

**C: Amen**



## **The Lord's Prayer** *(spoken)*

**C: 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**L: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm, and may he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.**

**C: Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

**L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

## Sending Song

## "Again and Again"

Laura Torrence

Words by  
Claire Cloninger

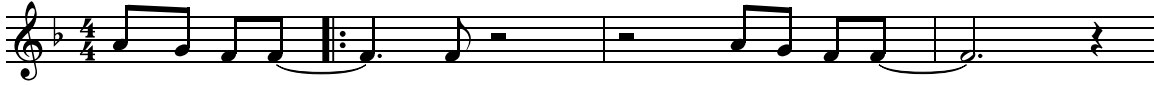
Music by  
Robert Sterling

♩=108

% VERSE

F<sup>2</sup>

B<sup>b</sup>2/F



1. Lord of the man - ger,	Lord of the cross, —
(2. Lord of all mer) - cy,	Lord of all joy, —
(3. Lord of all a) - ges,	Lord of all days, —

4

Gm

Dm

C<sup>sus</sup>

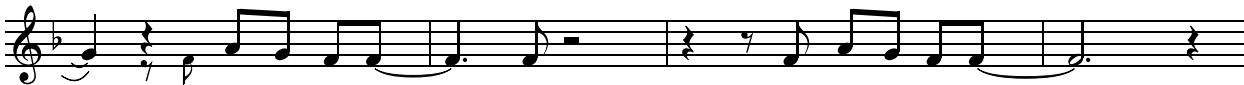


* You gained a king - dom	for the life that You lost. —
You claimed the vic - t'ry	death can nev - er de - stroy. —
we stand be - fore — You	for - ev - er a - mazed —

8

F

B<sup>b</sup>2/F



— You lived a - mong — us,	our Sav - ior and friend. —
— You give us new — life	that nev - er will end. —
— at how You have loved — us	and called us Your friend. —

12

Gm

B<sup>b</sup>



And we praise	You, — Lord	Je - sus,	a - gain and a - gain. .
And we praise	You, — Lord	Je - sus,	a - gain and a - gain. .
And we praise	You, — Lord	Je - sus,	a - gain and a - gain.

15

1, 3.  
F

2, 4.  
F

Fine



—	2. Lord of all mer -
—	3. Lord of all a -

CHORUS

19 C/E B $\flat$ <sup>2</sup>/D F F<sup>sus</sup> F F<sup>sus</sup> F

Glo - ry to \_ the One \_ who walks \_ be - side \_ us.

23 C/E B $\flat$ <sup>2</sup>/D F F<sup>sus</sup> F F<sup>sus</sup> F

Glo - ry to \_ the One \_ who al - ways will. \_ We

27 C Gm Dm

praise You for \_ Your awe - some love \_ that guides \_ us. And when Your

31 E $\flat$ <sup>2</sup>(#4) E $\flat$  E $\flat$ <sup>2</sup>(#4) E $\flat$  C<sup>sus</sup> D.S. al Fine

king - dom comes, \_ we \_ will praise \_ You still! \_ 3. Lord of all a -