

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)

## *A Lenten Devotional*

# Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith  
with Peter



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Art, reflections, &  
poetry for the  
season of Lent







## Tune my heart

Tune my heart.  
Like an old violin,  
Like a worn down piano,  
I have been left out in all manners of weather,  
I have been left alone for far too long.  
So like a concert master  
with a steady hand,  
tune me up.  
Listen and learn  
the cracked keys,  
the broken strings.  
Memorize the forgotten intervals  
That even I did not know.  
And then, when we're ready,  
When this creaky heart is tuned,  
teach me a new song.

*Poem by  
Rev. Sarah Speed*



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This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

In this devotional and series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

We encourage you to engage in the weekly art and reflections at your own pace, looking for the ways your own story may be reflected in Peter's faith journey. As we wander through Lent, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

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), retreat leader, 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. She also helps faith communities share their vibrant stories through branding & design services.

## 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 Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Membership at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. 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

OPERATIONS SUPPORT | CONTENT CREATOR

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

#### Dr. Terence Lester

Dr. Terence Lester (*he/him*) is a storyteller, public scholar, speaker, community activist, and author who is the Founder and Executive Director of *Love Beyond Walls*, a nonprofit organization focused on raising poverty and homelessness awareness and community mobilization. [terencelester.org](http://terencelester.org)  
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#### Dr. Karoline M. Lewis

Dr. Karoline Lewis (*she/her*) is the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, where she has taught since 2007. Lewis leads conferences, workshops, and retreats internationally on the Gospel of John, the New Testament, interpreting the Bible, preaching, leadership, and women in ministry. [karolinelewis.com](http://karolinelewis.com)

### Guest Artists



#### Rev. Nicolette (Faison) Peñaranda

Rev. Nicolette “Nic” (*she/her*) is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving as the Program Director for African Descent Ministries. She is passionate about queer Black liberation, cultivating diverse leadership in faith spaces, and the art of creation.



#### 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

# table of contents

## THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

### Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me"

POEM   "All This Time" by Sarah Speed	1
SING-READ-WRITE	2
COMMENTARY   Luke 5:1-11   Psalm 25:1-10 by Terence Lester	3
ART & REFLECTION   Luke 5:1-11 by Lisle Gwynn Garrity	5

## THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

### Wandering Heart: "Rescue me from danger"

POEM   "Rescue Me" by Sarah Speed	7
SING-READ-WRITE	8
COMMENTARY   Matthew 14:22-23   Psalm 22:23-31 by Terence Lester	9
ART & REFLECTION   Matthew 14:22-33 by Nicolette Peñaranda	11

## THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

### Wandering Heart: "Praise the mount"

POEM   "Praise the Mount" by Sarah Speed	13
SING-READ-WRITE	14
COMMENTARY   Matthew 16:13-20   Psalm 19 by Terence Lester	15
ART & REFLECTION   Matthew 16:13-20 by Lauren Wright Pittman	17

## THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

### Wandering Heart: "I'm fixed upon it"

POEM   "Open Hands" by Sarah Speed	19
SING-READ-WRITE	20
COMMENTARY   Matthew 16:21-23   Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 by Terence Lester	21
ART & REFLECTION   Matthew 16:21-23 by Hannah Garrity	23

## THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

### Wandering Heart: "Teach me"

POEM   "Teach Me" by Sarah Speed	25
SING-READ-WRITE	26
COMMENTARY   Matthew 18:15-22   Psalm 119:9-16 by Terence Lester	27
ART & REFLECTION   Matthew 18:15-22 by Lauren Wright Pittman	29

## holy week

### PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

#### Wandering Heart: "Songs of loudest praise"

POEM   "Courage" by Sarah Speed	31
COMMENTARY   John 12:12-26	32
ART & REFLECTION   John 12:12-26 by Lisle Gwynn Garrity	33

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

#### Wandering Heart: "Streams of mercy"

POEM   "With My Outside Voice" by Sarah Speed	35
COMMENTARY   John 13:1-20 by Karoline M. Lewis	36
ART & REFLECTION   John 13:1-20 by Nicolette Peñaranda	37

### GOOD FRIDAY

#### Wandering Heart: "Prone to leave the God I love"

POEM   "The Next Line" by Sarah Speed	39
COMMENTARY   John 18:1-27 by Karoline M. Lewis	40
ART & REFLECTION   John 13:31-38 by Hannah Garrity	41
ART & REFLECTION   John 18:1-11 by Lauren Wright Pittman	43
ART & REFLECTION   John 18:12-18; 19-27 by T. Denise Anderson	45
ART & REFLECTION   John 19:1-30 by Lisle Gwynn Garrity	47

### EASTER SUNDAY

#### Wandering Heart: "And I hope"

POEM   "Easter Morning" by Sarah Speed	49
COMMENTARY   Luke 24:1-12 by Karoline M. Lewis	50
ART & REFLECTION   Luke 24:1-12 by Hannah Garrity	51

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### Wandering Heart: "Here's my heart"

POEM   "Here's My Heart" by Sarah Speed	53
COMMENTARY   John 21:1-19 by Karoline M. Lewis	54
ART & REFLECTION   Luke 24:1-12 by Nicolette Peñaranda	55



**Read** Luke 5:1-11 | Psalm 25:1-10

**Commentary** | Dr. Terence Lester

Amid the global pandemic, we faced uncertainties and fear. The world was gripped by a new, invisible foe. I lead a nonprofit named *Love Beyond Walls* that advocates for the unhoused. During COVID-19, Demetri—whose name is forever etched in my memory—walked into our center. He was a community member and friend, but he seemed different. We asked what was on his mind, and he replied, "I believe I'm going to die because I have nowhere to wash my hands. How am I supposed to wash my hands when I don't have anywhere to go?"

His words showed the harsh reality for those experiencing homelessness: over half a million people held the same fear. COVID-19 was an awakening to the longstanding disparities within society. The term "social distancing" was jarring for people who had long known social distancing.

Demetri's story fueled a national campaign we called "Love Sinks In" to provide handwashing access for those without it, enabling us to connect more deeply and stand with our community. As others focused on hand hygiene and quarantine, we provided basic sanitation for those experiencing homelessness. Many debated toilet paper and confinement; we stood with individuals without soap, water, or shelter.

Just as Jesus sought out the Galilean fishermen, we sought out people suffering on the streets. Galilee, now modern-day northern Israel, hosted a diverse community and some struggled with poverty. Fishing was commonplace, and for many, a means of subsistence. Those whose fishing did not succeed often became destitute. Just as Jesus called the fishermen, he calls us to seek the marginalized, to become "fishers of men." Demetri's plea echoed Peter's response to Jesus' call: "I'm afraid." But it was also a call to action.

Peter had a wandering heart. Jesus was always there to catch Peter, to walk beside him, to wash his feet, and to offer love. In Peter's story, we find Jesus. Peter's wandering faith ebbed and flowed, pushed away and pulled close. But he was always tethered to the love of God. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We will wander alongside him, glimpsing Jesus through his eyes.

When we allow ourselves to be afraid and vulnerable, God's love washes our wandering hearts. We washed hands during COVID-19, but God's love showers us with calm, connection, and belonging amid upheaval. In the midst of fear and uncertainty, Jesus brought calm. He reminded us that God is with us. Jesus formed a community willing to follow. "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long" (Psalm 25:1-10). In despair, we found hope; in fear, we found peace.

As we contemplate Luke 5:1-11, let us hold Demetri and others like him in our hearts. In crisis, *Love Beyond Walls* responded with compassion and love, and so, we too were found by the Divine, and the narrative of our lives became a testament to God's grace.



### Reflect

Dr. Lester writes, "Just as Jesus sought out the Galilean fishermen, we sought out people suffering on the streets." In your own community, who is God seeking out? Who might God be calling you to seek out?



**Read** Luke 5:1-11

**From the Artist** | Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

"Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8)

As we begin Lent, this desperate confession introduces us to Peter, the disciple whose story—and wandering heart—we will follow for the next 7 weeks. Peter was a commercial fisherman based in Galilee. He was most likely bilingual, speaking Aramaic and Greek, culturally influenced by both Judaism and Hellenism. His business would have been under oppressive control of the Roman government, which arbitrarily imposed harsh rental and harbor fees, fishing licenses, and taxes on domestic fishermen. He was likely a blue-collar worker daily constrained by tides and taxes.

With this backstory in mind, we may hear Peter's response to the abundant catch of fish with fresh ears. There are so many messages within his protest: "I'm not prepared. I'm not capable. I'm not deserving. I'm not faithful enough. I'm not smart enough. I'm not the type you're looking for." Have you ever found yourself saying these things in response to a new calling, or to an abundant gift of grace?

In this image, the bursting nets transform into a river of grace meandering through the composition of Peter's life. The river pours into Peter's hands, but he can't quite grasp the fullness of this gift and calling quite yet, and so most of it rushes right by. As you will see in my other pieces for this series, this river of grace will wander alongside Peter throughout his life. The river represents how his journey with Christ begins and ends: with an abundant catch of fish. It's a visible reminder of the ways God's grace bends and turns and rushes to find each of our wandering hearts.

Despite Peter's resistance, grace seeks him out. His right thumb gets caught in the net. He can't escape the fact that God's goodness and mercy will pursue him all the days of his life (Psalm 23:6). The river rushes in. The question for Peter—and for each of us—is will he follow where it leads?



River of Grace | Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity  
*Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing*