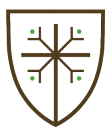




LENT

*Featuring artwork, poetry, and writing
from the Lent 2020 Project participants*



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GALLERY • LENT 2020

ALL SAINTS SPIRITUAL FORMATION PRACTICES

Daily Office
Spiritual Direction
Small Groups
Study
Sabbath
Retreat
Tithing & Sacrificial Giving
Fasting & Moderation
Hospitality
Service

WELCOME TO LENT 2020

This project, that you can see in the Narthex Gallery at All Saints during Lent, on the All Saints website, and in this booklet, was birthed out of a conversation that we (David Lutes and Josh Keller, with inspiration from Craig Chapman) had in the spring of 2019. We had both been wondering for some time what it would look like to see the All Saints 10 Spiritual Formation Practices lived out in our church in a way that would inspire, motivate, and compel anyone in our congregation unfamiliar with the practices to take them up. Our conversations always centered on two ideas.

First, we both believe that beauty is one of the most effective apologetics for the wonder of faith and the dramatic tension of following Christ and being remade in His image. We had both been involved with these practices for several years and knew first hand that beginning a practice seems daunting and difficult. But beauty had led us both to set out and take on these practices - the beauty of lives that we had seen transformed by these practices, the beauty of the written word that captivated our imaginations, the beauty of art and music that spoke to our souls and called us into one of the 10 practices. So, we both knew that beauty would have to be foundational.

The second was the simple reality that as humans, we tend to go where others have already been and can give us the vision and clear the landscape to guide us on our way. Beauty inspires us to get on the path. Those who have gone before us clear the route.

Once we crystalized these two ideas, everything began to come together. We only needed one more - the idea of doing a Lenten season that we could reflect upon with 20/20 vision. It was 2019 at the time. It was irresistible.

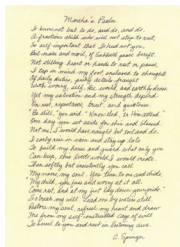
What you have before you is the work of a community of people who, over the fall of 2019, completed a 40-day spiritual journey. Before the church began her Lenten pilgrimage in 2020, this group - this vanguard - had already travelled the 40 Lenten days with one another. They reordered their schedules and pruned things from their life, in order to take on one spiritual formation practice and

then show the beauty it produced. In other words, they committed themselves to go first and lead us, helping to remove our barriers and show us the way, so when we as a church came to the season of Lent, we could go with their guidance. They also committed to bring forth the beauty that God produced in their life to share with all, knowing that it may be the very inspiration needed to compel your heart to take on a spiritual formation practice this Lent and allow God to use it to form you into the very image of Jesus Christ.

We trust that God will do just that. You will find in this project a compilation and combination of visual art and written art that seeks to guide, inspire, reflect, and communicate the experiences, struggles, frustrations, joys, and glories of taking on one of All Saints 10 Spiritual Formation Practices into your life. It has inspired us. We know it will inspire you as you travel the 40 days of Lent in 2020.

- Josh Keller and David Lutes

VISUAL ART



SABBATH

Claudia Springer, *Martha's Poem*, 2020,
ink on handmade paper, 7.5 x 10 in.



FASTING & MODERATION

Mónica Tornoe, *Less Is More*, 2020,
acrylic on wood, 23 x 25 in., \$300



RETREAT

Cassie Marino, *Restful Attention*, wool, cotton yarn
and native wood, 19 x 44.5 in., 2020, \$600



HOSPITALITY

Erin Keller, *Raw Hospitality*, acrylic on canvas,
30 x 40 in., 2020, \$650



DAILY OFFICE

Missy Wood, *Liturgy of Being*, 2020,
charcoal on paper, 20 x 24 in., NFS



TITHING & SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sonya Menges, *Missing Man, Missing Man*,
graphite on paper, 94 x 51 in., 2009, \$3,000



STUDY

Asher Wood, *St Mark the Evangelist*, acrylic
on panel, 33 x 39 in., 2020, \$875



SMALL GROUPS

Jenny Noel, *Small Groups*, oil on canvas,
19.5 x 16 in., 2020, \$200

WRITING

DAILY OFFICE

Connor Mighell

Missy Wood

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Mary Kat Cone

SMALL GROUPS

Isaac Banegas

STUDY

Asher Wood

SABBATH

Claudia Springer

RETREAT

Brittany Williams

TITHING & SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sonya Menges

FASTING & MODERATION

Josh Keller

HOSPITALITY

Courtney Thrash

SERVICE

Josh Keller

Read all the writing pieces at allsaintsaustin.org/lent2020.

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DAILY OFFICE

"Now, with God's help, I shall become myself." -Søren Kierkegaard

The Daily Office is a scheduled cadence of scripture reading, song, and prayer, at different times of the day. This spiritual practice helps me center each day in the presence of God while engaging all of Scripture. Breaking up the day like this helps to regulate my pace and stress, as well as to sync the prayers of the church with my biorhythm, as I move through morning prayer, midday prayer, evening prayer, and night prayer. The structure of this liturgical approach to the day can calm me or inspire new energy. It makes me feel a part of community as well as centering my self. As with any rhythm of new habits, the work of this spiritual practice doesn't have an immediate effect, but eventually the daily actions coalesce into a new state of being.



As I contemplated an artistic response to the Daily Office, I reluctantly accepted that a self-portrait would be the most honest treatment. I myself am a work in progress, and I wanted to create a self-portrait that reflects this state of becoming. Instead of taking the typical approach to a head-shot, where I'm presenting the best version of myself, I tried to show something both more authentic, in my expression, as well as visually portraying myself as incomplete. I'm learning that as much as I want to be fully formed, my story isn't yet fully told, and God has much more work to do. As I contemplate my current state of being, I'm aware that as I get closer to the Lord, I will not just find him, but also find my true self.

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." - Psalm 139:14-16

- Missy Wood

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Praying into Holiness

Two Parables

I.

A child came to her mother and asked,
“What is the kingdom of heaven like?”

“The kingdom of heaven is like
a woman who waits for a voice.

2 fingers pressing gently
the glint of silken threads
Watch!—

as she holds the lines loosely
as she lets them lead

Out & Up & Into

another place,

a glorious throne room,

a King, drenched in light,

reading your name, my girl,

feeling our names,

my child,

where they are sewn

into His palm.”

II.

Soon after the child came to her
mother again and asked,

“What else is the kingdom of
heaven like?”

I smiled into her face, and said,
“The kingdom of heaven is also like
a woman who carries a key.

She has a knack
for taking up with strangers
as they descend
inward
to a cell.”

“Does she open the door?”

“No. She does not. She waits!
And how can she wait?
What does she know
about the essence of light,
how it shines when you can't see it,
how it speaks as we go?
How can she believe
that I— that you, my own—
will reach out, despite the dark,
to grasp the key
to turn the lock
to open the door
to His radiant face?”

- Mary Kat Cone

SMALL GROUPS



Jenny Noel, *Small Group*, 2020, oil on canvas, 19.5 x 16 in., \$200

“The Christian journey isn’t walked alone but in community with other Christians.”
The background is painted black to express the darkness of the world but within a small group we can grow through studying the Word, fellowshiping, and praying for each other. It’s a place where we can share our joys and sorrows and encourage one another.

STUDY



We don't understand first, and then believe. We have faith, and then from that faith, we work out our understanding. The spiritual practice of Study is helpful in this, and it doesn't just mean collecting information, as it includes evaluation and interpretation on the path to understanding. In our current age, data seems to be at our fingertips with a Google search, and yet we need help if we're to make sense of what info we are able to gather. I read these words of Karl Barth, that "Prayer without study would be empty. Study

without prayer would be blind." Setting out into a focused endeavor of Study, I prayerfully hoped that the Holy Spirit would guide me as the information became uncovered and woven together.

For my Study, I started looking into Celtic knots and patterns. I've always loved Celtic patterns, not just because they're pleasing to look at, but because they remind me of my Scottish heritage and living in Scotland for a bit after college. The Celtic patterns and influence on the Book of Kells is particularly transformative, not just for me, but for culture itself, as the creators of that book took what had been decorative traditions in the pagan Celtic cultures, and included them in a visual language to help translate Scripture to the readers of the time. I looked at these patterns in the Book of Kells, seeing how they complemented the illuminated text. I noted how animals were used, either to form illuminated letters, or for symbolic direction. And in this exploration of the Book of Kells, a particular image was clearly more interesting to me than all the others – a winged lion.

The winged lion symbolizes St. Mark the Evangelist. The lion derives from Mark's description of John the Baptist as a "voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3), which artists have compared to a roaring lion. The wings come from the application of Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures to the evangelists. The lion also represents Jesus' resurrection (because lions were believed to sleep with open eyes, a comparison with Christ in the tomb), and Christ as king. It's interesting that Mark is symbolized by a lion, even though he himself was not the lion – it was either John the Baptist or Jesus resurrected. I love the idea that we are known for what we love, and to the degree that we are associated with that love, we are more and more like it in how we ourselves are perceived. This gives more meaning to the concept that we need to get out of our own way, and let God reveal Himself in our lives.

SABBATH

Martha's Psalm

I know not but to do, and do, and do,
A fractious child who will not stop to rest,
So self-important that I heed not you,
But make and moil, of Sabbath peace bereft.
Not stilling heart or hands to rest or pause,
I tap in mind my foot, enslaved to thoughts
Of daily duties, pesky details fraught
With worry, self, the world, and earthly dross.
Yet my salvation and my strength depend
On rest, repentance trust, and quietness.
"Be still," you said. "Know God, to Him attend."
One day you set aside for this and blessed.
Not me! I would have naught but toil and do.
I early rise in vain and stay up late
To build my house and guard what only you
Can keep, this little world I would create.
Then softly but insistently you call
My name, my soul. You turn to me and chide.
"My child, you fuss and worry at it all.
Come rest, and at my feet lay down your pride."
So break my will. Lead me by waters still.
Restore my soul, refresh my heart and draw
Me from my self-constructed cage of will
To kneel to you and rest in listening awe.

- Claudia Springer

RETREAT



A Restful Attention.

In this age of distraction, multitasking, and mindless scrolling, a task to engage a mind and fingers alike is a retreat for my soul. When my ability to sustain attention is under constant attack by barrages of colorful images, rest is found in the satisfaction of persisting through a long task of creating detailed beauty by weaving lines and colors together. As Charlotte Mason has said, "Attention is simply the act by which the whole mental force is applied to the subject at hand."

A retreat from the inundation of technology and screens strengthens my ability to withstand the pressuring cultural attacks of falsehood. When my mind is at rest, I am able to connect with the Great Creator and be at peace.

- Cassie Marino

TITHING & SACRIFICIAL GIVING



As I meditated on the practice of tithing and sacrificial giving, I thought of my drawing, *Missing Man*, and the metaphorical power of water. Here, the perspective of the imagined waterfalls is from an elevated view, inspired by Caspar David Friedrich's painting *Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog*. There are a variety of visual tensions: flatness yet depth, shifting water yet solid ground, movement yet stillness, seen yet unseen, light yet dark, presence yet absence. A friend reminded me of this last paradox in this work. I found that sacrificial giving can result in an absence, that finds a presence and fullness somewhere else, in someone else, even in us, through the work of Christ. How?

Proverbs 30:4, "Who has ascended to heaven and come down?..."

Philippians 3:7-11: "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

These two passages help me realize the depth and breadth of the gifts I have already received from my Heavenly Father, especially Christ's sacrifice on my behalf. Perhaps the only way to give sacrificially and selflessly is to hold fast to thankfulness. In dependent emptiness, I can see the abundance, provision, and grace, given by a God who cares for me, even if it is not as I had first imagined. And I give in response and in order to know that God more.

Missing Man reminds me that life is in the movement of the water, despite unknown and chaotic danger. Still and secure water becomes rancid and stagnant. Letting go does bring absence, but in emptying we can be filled with the presence of the living water of Christ.

- Sonya Menges

FASTING & MODERATION



Less personality, more essence.
Less of me, more of his presence.

When I focus on myself and on my needs,
I produce things that may be shiny and
look good outwardly, but they have no
eternal value.

When my mindset and intention are
focused on the kingdom, it shows. They
shine like gold and have eternal value.
Only here is where I can fully become the
woman that God has called me to be.

- Mónica Tornadoe

The Ending of the Fast - by Josh Keller

The Fast came. It went.
Our fires still burned without consent.
Nothing blatantly remarkable
came. A woman told a parable,
but, being a parable, no one
understood. No angelic visions
materialized; no nun
had preternatural convictions.
The whole thing fizzled
Away. Even politicians
couldn't be bothered.
We all assumed, that His conditions
hadn't been met. We found,
instead of faith, a desperate
lack.

Our souls unsound,
our hearts, frankly, intemperate.

So, what did we want?
What was it, exactly, that the fast did?
Fix our ills? Taunt
God out from where He was hid?
Now God can be a chore.
Salvation won by hunger pang.
It showed us we needed more
Than anything, less of everything.

The point is, it didn't work.
So we gave up. Crawled back.
Focused on a modern perk:
The start-up express track.
Degrees and pedigree.
Working hard to find us getting
All and all comfortably.
No. Our lives were not worth offsetting.
We can still be steadfast.
No need to turn into God's fanatic.
Please. We can just about go past
It all, going and going at manic
paces. Fast, but loose
As hell.
Getting what we want,
never finding what we need.

HOSPITALITY



In *Raw Hospitality* I wanted to show the inward tension I experience when I open up my life and home to others. A battle always erupts inside my head when I invite others in. Is my house nice, am I a good cook, where will everyone sit, what will I have to clean up? So, in response to that battle, I chose to paint an hour glass figure to represent two things. The first is the time you give up when you host. The second is the release of that inward tension, when you give up the battle, just let it happen, and can truly welcome people. The result becomes a blessing for you, the host, and also the guest who was welcomed and accepted. It's a battle to make your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were. Sometimes, it's raw. But it's a battle worth fighting.

- Erin Keller

Fractio Panis

A man builds a fire in the dark,
warming his hands over crackling trash.

He needs a shave.
A woman approaches the barrel,

keeping her distance.
She does not look up.

His eyes flicker like glass stained
the color of blood and soil and lit from within.

“Are you hungry?” he says to the woman
who is full of nothing.

He hands her his bread and waits
as though he holds all of time

and space in this firelight.
He waits and does not expect.

And she eats, aches.
And she is home.

- Courtney Thrash

Special thanks to Missy Wood for curation of the gallery exhibit.

For more information about the All Saints Gallery and to download a Gallery Booklet, go to allsaintsaustin.org/gallery.



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