

Lisle Gwynn Garrity

The Courage to Say Yes (2019)
Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 48"

Painted throughout Presbytery worship on February 26th, 2019, **The Courage to Say Yes** was created as a visual proclamation inspired by Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-16. Worshipers were invited to witness the creation of this piece as a form of visual meditation and prayer.

"When I live paint in spaces of worship, my greatest prayer is that you will see in the painting whatever you need to see. And I hope you know that no matter what you see in the painting-whatever it reminds you of or invites you to imagine-all of it is right.

When I read this passage from the letter to the Ephesians, I was struck by the author's almost desperate plea to 'live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.' I immediately saw the image of a spiral, a swirl of invitation, sweeping the viewer into the heart of God. Here, we are reminded that our lives and gifts are bound up with others-our unique callings are knit together for a common purpose. When we have the courage to say yes to our callings, we allow others to step into the work to which they have been called. When we forge a new way, we create a path for others to follow behind. This is a ripple effect.

When you look at this image, you might imagine yourself standing from the outside looking in, imagining God begging you to say yes and be swept up into the beauty and abundance of your calling. Or perhaps you might imagine yourself at the core, looking from the inside out at the ways God is using you to impact the lives of others. When you have the courage to say yes, God joyfully invites you to inhabit both of these perspectives. "



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Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity is a pastorist (pastor + artist), who creates live art in worship as a form of visual proclamation. She lives and works in Black Mountain, NC. Find more of her work at lislegwynngarrity.com.

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