

Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Wilderness Way

Acrylic on Canvas

48" x 60"

Painted throughout worship on March 1, 2020, for the season of Lent, *Wilderness Way* was created as a visual proclamation inspired by Matthew 4:1-11. Worshipers were invited to witness the creation of this piece as a form of visual meditation and prayer.

“I wonder if Jesus began his ministry in the wilderness because he needed to learn how to bear witness to pain without running from it. I wonder if he needed to sit high on that mountain—not to dominate the earth, but to be humbled by it. To be vulnerable enough to be cared for by the angels that tended to him. To be present to the glory of simple things—wind that becomes breath, light that lines the horizon, stone that fills with the sun’s warmth, land that stretches beyond what the eye can see.

I wish the wilderness were easy. I wish it was always safe and comfortable and calm. I wish it did not leave us with bruises and scars.

But I do know this—the wilderness journey is temporary. It does not last forever. When we have the courage to stick it out, to keep walking, to lean into discomfort, to keep trusting that the Spirit is the one who helps us find our way, we *do* leave the wilderness—different than how we entered it. We learn, I think, that the wilderness makes us more holy and more human. The wilderness shapes us into who we’re called to be.”

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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.