

2019 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

# WHAT CAN'T WAIT



ART, REFLECTIONS, &  
PROMPTS FOR THE  
SEASON OF WAITING



*Sanctified Art*  
sanctifiedart.org



*Light Pierces Through* | Lisle Gwynn Garrity



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

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**READ** JOHN 1:1-14

**FROM THE ARTIST** | LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

When we talk about the creation story, we often refer to Genesis. But the bible is full of creation stories, and the opening of John's gospel is one of them. Not to be confined to literal interpretation, the poetry of John 1 tells us more about the nature of God than about the contents of the cosmos.

Looking at this story of birth, what do we learn about God?

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God (John 1:1).* God is living word, holy discourse. God is known to us in logic, debate, truth, and story.

*What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people (John 1:4).* God is living flesh, divine presence in human form, the embodiment of love for all people. God joins us in every human experience.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light (John 1:5).* God is light that pierces through the darkness. Nothing can stop it or dampen its might.

In this painting, I meditated on the persistence of light. Light can travel endlessly through a vacuum; light waves won't diminish no matter how far they have to travel. Therefore, starlight travels through space for billions of light years to reach us on earth. Can you imagine that? Perhaps that's God's nature and constant posture—endlessly traveling through time and space just to reach us.

**PRAYER**

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.



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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

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*Hopes for the Coming Year*

## **WHAT CAN'T WAIT? 2020**

What can't wait in this new year? What practices, intentions, and habits do you want to adopt in this next year? Where is God actively creating hope, peace, joy, and love in your life?

*In the space provided, write or draw any ideas that come to mind.*



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*A Sanctified Art LLC is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshiping 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](https://sanctifiedart.org).**

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