

*Kairos: The Voice of Austin Presbyterian
Theological Seminary Students*

IN GRATITUDE

Issue 349 – November 2020

IN GRATITUDE

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Sopphey Vance

SECRET SYMBOLS Ash Brown



NICE RIGHT NOW Jonathan Freeman

The wind feels orange today
 To the delight of my sweaty bones
 And whether it's the rain
 Or the harvest on its way
 This tepid tempest hits my soul like sugar

I'm getting goosebumps
 For every good reason
 Like my cynicism got conked in the head
 By a coconut and
 Until the second one drops
 At the end of the episode
 Feels clear

When winter hits
 If bliss like this is over
 And all that's left is there
 I guess
 I'll try to take this moment
 And hold it tight enough to share

OPEN HANDS Bis Thornton



TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2020

PFLAG reports **47** national and **386** international (known) lives of those who died between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020. These 47 beautifully and wonderfully beloved beings that rest with God. This year Kairos is proud to honor their lives in this mourn these brothers and sisters by name and those that remain in obscurity. For more information on PFLAG Transgender Day of Remembrance 2020 visit: <https://pflag.org/blog/transgender-day-remembrance-2020>

Holy One, we remember:

Corbin Ray Back, age 23
Christine Zephier, 23
Daphne Dorman, 44
Brianna "BB" Hill, 30
Nikki Kuhnhausen, 17
Angel Rose Garcia, 21
Alice Carter ("Baby Alice"), 35
Yahira Nesby, 33
Mia Penny, 26
Dustin Parker, 25
Alex McCray, 22
Camila María Concepción, 28
John Scott Devore/Scottlyn Kelly Devore, 51
Monica Diamond, 34
Lexi "Ebony" Sutton, 33
Lorena Borjas, 59,

#SAYTHEIRNAMES

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Ashley Moore, 26,
Henrietta Robinson, 79
Johanna Metzger
Nina Pop, 28
Helle Jae O'Regan, 20
Jayne Thompson, 33
Tony McDade, 38
Selena Reyes-Hernandez, 37
Name Unknown, 16-20
Riah Milton, 25
Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells, 27
Brian Powers ("Eagle")
Brayla Stone, 17
Tatiana Hall, 22
Merci Mack, 22
Draya McCarty, 28
Shaki Peters, 32
Bree Black, 27
Summer Taylor, 24
Angela Martinez Gómez, 42
Marilyn Monroe Cazares, 22
Tiffany Harris ("Dior H Ova"), 32
Queasha Hardy, 24
Aja Raquell Rhone-Spears ("Rocky Rhone"), 32
Kee Sam, 24
Shelley Lynn Rose, 16
Elie Che, 23
Isabella Mia Lofton, 21
Gia Valentina Romualdo Rodríguez, 46
Aerrion Burnett, 37
Mia Green, 29

GRATITUDE Ann Graham

Gratitude calls me to rest in God when my tears would drown all peace.

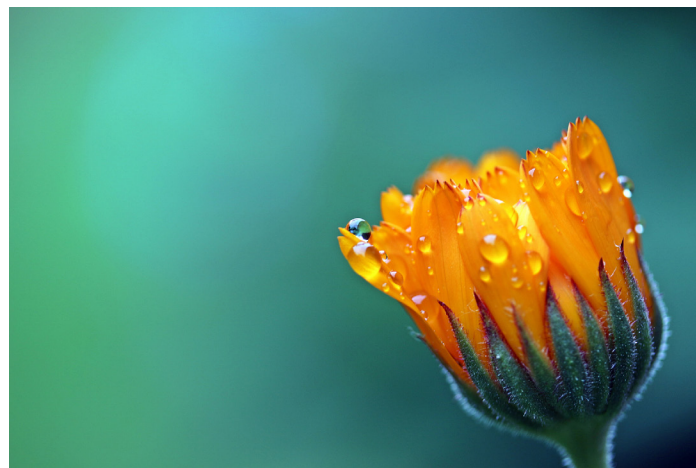
Remembering—giving thanks for all that God has done and will do—

illuminates grace in the present moment.

God's love—present, past, and future—makes a path through the deep water.

When storms rage, I see Jesus walking to me, with arms outstretched—

Arms that have and will catch me when I flounder,



Arms full of blessings like bright marigolds.

I am thankful that Jesus sees me when waves that are over my head hide my own soul from me.

I bless God and give thanks, even when I cannot see the shore.

GRATEFULFOUR Allison Angell

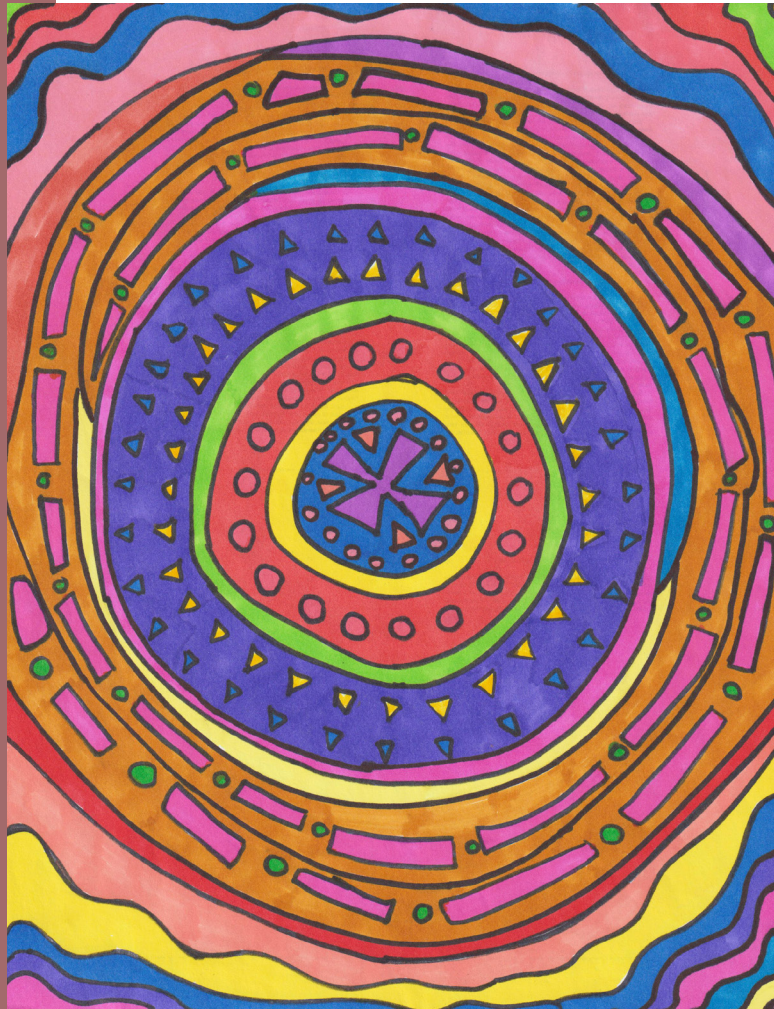
My mom passed away in February 2015. On Thanksgiving of that year (when I was having a hard time being thankful) I read an Instagram post by author Jen Hatmaker. She said, "God gave us an amazing tool to mitigate sorrow and seize joy by the collar: gratitude. It is a crazy effective trick." In my deep grief, I longed for such a thing to relive the anguish I felt as I tried to go through the motions of "celebrating" a holiday. I now count gratitude as a primary survival tool.

This year I employ the gratitude tool daily. I like 365 projects – having a themed activity to do every single day for a year. Last December I decided 2020 would be the year of gratitude. Since four is my favorite number, I write down (on the Notes App) four things from the day for which I am thankful. I have an alarm on my phone to remind me to do this every night before I go to sleep.

As you can imagine this task proves to be harder on some days. In fact, on a couple of occasions I have rebelled and wrote something for which I was NOT "gratefulfour" (like, say, the rushed appointment of an ultra-conservative Supreme Court justice). But generally, I find this practice very meaningful both in the moment of taking time to reflect, as well as when I look back at the long, cumulative list of items for which I thank God. (In case you're wondering, the people and experiences at APTS often make the daily cut.)

I have figured out the evening ritual is easier if I'm on the look-out for things to be gratefulfour during the day, and I type thoughts in as they happen. As a result, I have been forced into gratitude during this crazy COVID year. That's not such a bad thing.

TEMPEST Sopphey Vance



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Sopphey Vance

Welcome, this issue took a little bit of waxing and waning in time and topic. It's only a reflection of the times. We are in a season of pandemic fatigue, online worship fatigue, virtual classrooms, and uncertainty about the nation's election. Thus it is only right and good for me to be thankful for those who made this issue the beautifulness in spirit and kindness that it is. Without you dear contributors, there would be no *Kairos*. Thank you for your contribution.

Before I close out this issue I want to remind us all about our dear one, named Job from the Book of Job. I am reminded of chapter 38 verse one where out of the tempest, storm, or whirlwind God broke the barrier of sacred and humanity to address Job. Wait, a little back story, I often ask God "where are you?" And because I ask God for God's whereabouts. I am reminded of this verse.

In verse four, God asks Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the land?" God, thus asks me too. "Where were ya, V?" And I want to answer, "I was there, in your future plans when I would be born 1,988 years after you rose again. To worship you, be thankful to you, and meet so many wonderful people you call your beloved children." xV

**KAIROS
EVENTS**

ISSUE 349 RELEASE PARTY
NOVEMBER 12, 2020

ISSUE 350 SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 28, 2020

ISSUE 350 RELEASE PARTY
DECEMBER 10, 2020

ISSUE 351 SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE
DECEMBER 28, 2020

ISSUE 351 RELEASE PARTY
JANUARY 9, 2021

ISSUE 352 SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE
JANUARY 28, 2020

ISSUE 352 RELEASE PARTY
FEBRUARY 11, 2020

*Check out Community Announcements for current
information about Austin Seminary events!*