



DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN & ORKNEY

FROM ASHES TO FIRE: A JOURNEY FROM LENT TO PENTECOST

Wednesday 19th March 2025

Resources from the Arts – Faith and Transformation

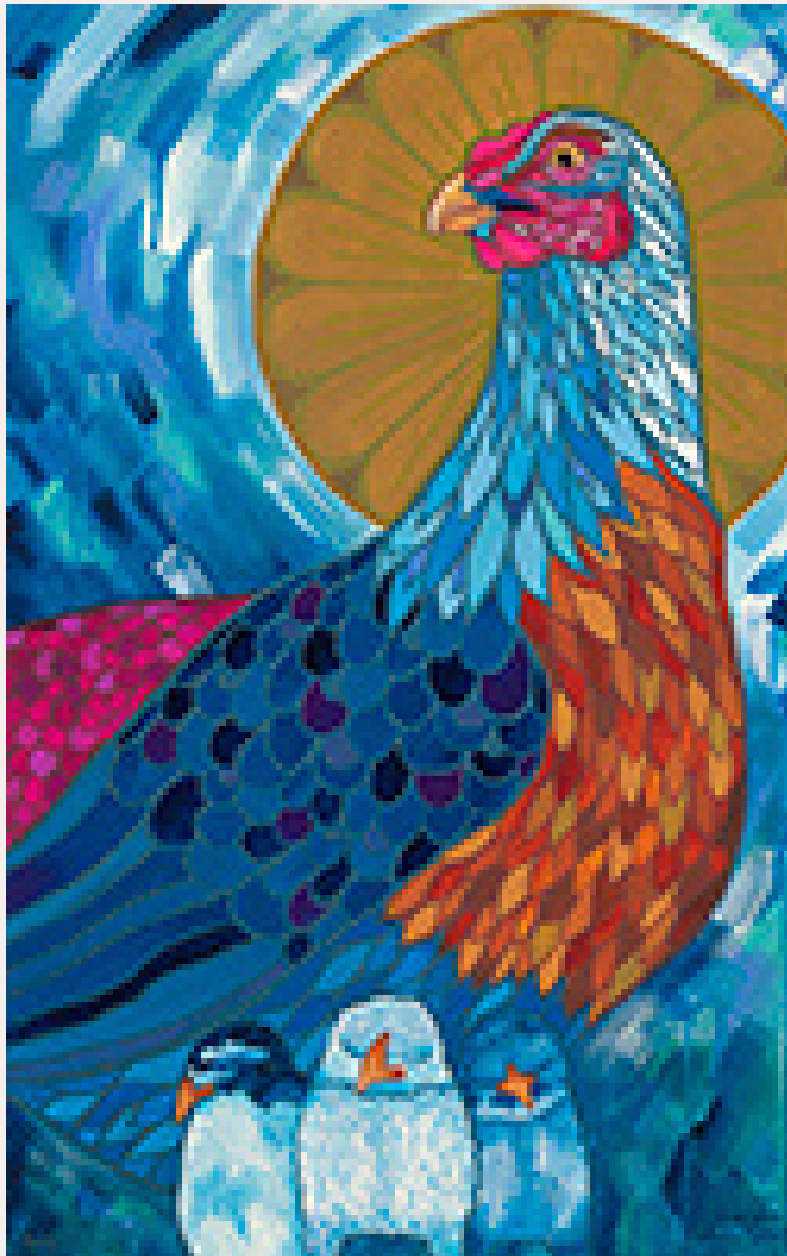
On Tuesdays & Wednesdays we'll explore words from others and resources from the arts - music, art, poetry to help us reflect and engage deeper. The Christian Life involves many different actions, engagement with scripture and the world.

As you reflect on these images and pieces music what do they make you think about the theme of faith and transformation?



The music offered for reflection during this course will involve hymnody (old and new), music contemporary and classical and is suggested to provoke reflection.

- *The God of Abraham praise by Thomas Olivers.* This is related to the Genesis reading, linking God's promises and faithfulness.
- *By Faith by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Cornerstone by Edward Motem Eric Liljerom Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, & William Batchelder Bradbury.* These worship songs speak of faith, transformation and trust in God.
- *Quatre motets pour le temps de penitence by François Poulenc.* These four choral pieces are for 'the time of penitence'.



Pittman, Lauren Wright. *Mother Hen*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57093> [retrieved March 13, 2025]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

The artist writes “The image of Christ as a mother hen is revolutionary. Instead of using a hypermasculine, militaristic, menacing image in response to Herod’s death threats, Jesus upends the expected posture of violence and chooses to identify with the nurturing, protective, feminine image of a mother hen. He explains his love for Jerusalem as a mother hen who desperately desires to lovingly shelter her young. This image drips of rejection, however, because the chicks are unwilling to be protected. In Jesus’ attempt to love the world he meets unwillingness, distrust, mockery, and violence.

Jesus’ use of this simile is wonderfully subversive because at first it seems like a harmless, warm, and fuzzy kind of reference—a cuddly, plump mother hen wanting to snuggle her young—but mother hens will protect their young at all cost. A mother hen will put her whole body on the line to keep her chicks safe; if danger nears, she will meet it head on, striking with her beak, with claws raised high.

Jesus wants that fox (Herod) to know that death threats will not keep him from fiercely bringing healing and restoration to the world.”