THE YEAR AS A HOUSE

A Blessing

Think of the year
as a house:
door flung wide
in welcome,
threshold swept
and waiting,
a graced spaciousness
opening and offering
itself to you.

Let it be blessed
in every room.
Let it be hallowed
in every corner.
Let every nook
be a refuge
and every object
set to holy use.

Let it be here
that safety will rest.
Let it be here
that health will make its
home.
Let it be here
that peace will show its face.
Let it be here
that love will find its way.

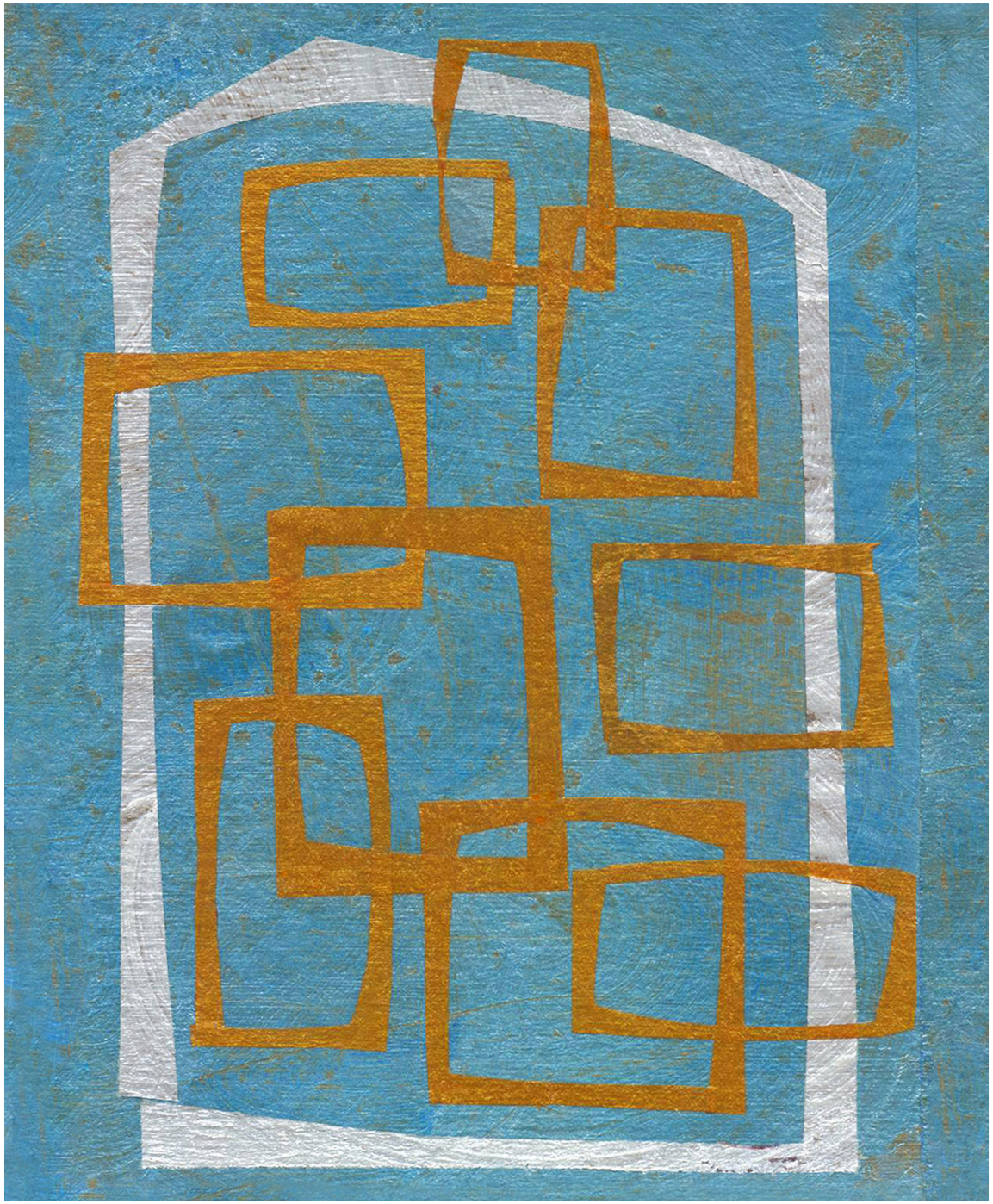
Here
let the weary come
let the aching come
let the lost come
let the sorrowing come.

Here
let them find their rest
and let them find
their soothing
and let them find
their place
and let them find
their delight.

And may it be
in this house of a year
that the seasons will
spin in beauty,
and may it be
in these turning days
that time will
spiral with joy.
And may it be
that its rooms will
fill with ordinary grace
and light spill
from every window
to welcome
the stranger home.

—Jan Richardson

Jan Richardson: Poem *The Year As A House* © janrichardson.com | Image *Many Rooms* © janrichardsonimages.com



Preparing for Giving

As we enter a time of intentional investment in the care of our church, we invite you to meditate on Nativity as a house "opening and offering itself to you" and to all. It is the spiritual home we share together as we grow in knowing God and one another.

Your commitment to the Building Belonging campaign is an expression of faith through your finances. This meditation and guide can help you as you prepare to make a faith-based decision.

REFLECT ON GOD'S LOVE

God came into the world, teaching us the way of love and generosity. Making a commitment to the Building Belonging Campaign is about praising God for 67 years of welcome and care within these walls. It is about celebrating the transforming love of God in community every day. It is about extending that "graced spaciousness" to others—into the next generations. It is about Joy.

"I say these things while I am still in the world so that you may have the full measure of my joy within you." ~ John 17:13

PRAY FOR GUIDANCE

Loving God, you call us to be messengers of your love. Help us not to be timid but bold in faith. Give us wisdom as we consider our financial gift to the ministry of our church, building belonging and affirming, "Let it be here...."

"We love because God first loved us." ~ 1 John 4:19

TAKE A STEP OF FAITH

When you are ready, respond by trusting in God's grace and provision, assured that "love will find its way."

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." ~ Matthew 6:33

This time, this house, this gift—"let it be blessed." Amen.

Personal Reflection:

BUILDING BELONGING

For 67 years, Nativity Lutheran Church has been a sanctuary where people are known and loved for who they are.