



Fig Leafing

by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Luke 13:6-9
Paper lace and watercolor

At our church retreat a few months ago, we offered a session on eco-spirituality. Our instructor led an exercise that focused our attention on a single, natural object. I selected a wilted flower. We were to draw it, then tell its narrative. We were to refer to it as a "one." This one. We were to affirm the one and be affirmed by the one.

That exercise resonates with me here as I revisit the parable of the fig tree. In this circular image, two figures lean in over the tree; their

heads are full of ideas for fruiting, their bodies are full of dead fig leaf patterns.⁵ Their ideas and dreams have not born fruit. They converse about how to cultivate growth. Then one pushes back against the other and creates tension, discord. From that tension comes an opening, letting the fig tree have its time and space to thrive.

In this paper lace piece, the fig tree is full of life, representing its potential when given the time and space to grow. As I wonder about God's presence here in the parable, I see that the God figure could be the fig tree. "Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it,"⁶ the vineyard keeper replies. As I breathe into the gift of another day, where do I see potential in need of my honor, my care, and the space and time to grow?

Or perhaps the God figure here is in the space between them all, between the three. The fig tree, this one, begins its leafing in the in-between. —Hannah Garrity

⁵ The two circular shapes with fruit seeds inside of them represent the figures' heads; the branch-like imagery beneath the heads represent their shoulders.

⁶ Luke 13:8, NRSV



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“HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE” SPEAKER SERIES

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RACIAL JUSTICE IN A POST – GEORGE FLOYD WORLD



**WITH ANITA FRIDAY
OF THE OPEN HEARTS
FOUNDATION**

**Sunday, March 23, 2025
7PM on Zoom**

<https://tinyurl.com/AnitaFriday>

Anita is the founder of Open Hearts: A Path for Racial Healing (openheartspathforracialhealing.com). Its mission is to dismantle racial inequity through education, training, and engagement, and to provide tools for one to use in order to move America towards an ethically-based society where everyone, irrespective of race or ethnicity, has the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential.

For more information, contact Pastor Will O'Brien at will@frazermennonite.org or 267-339-8989

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