

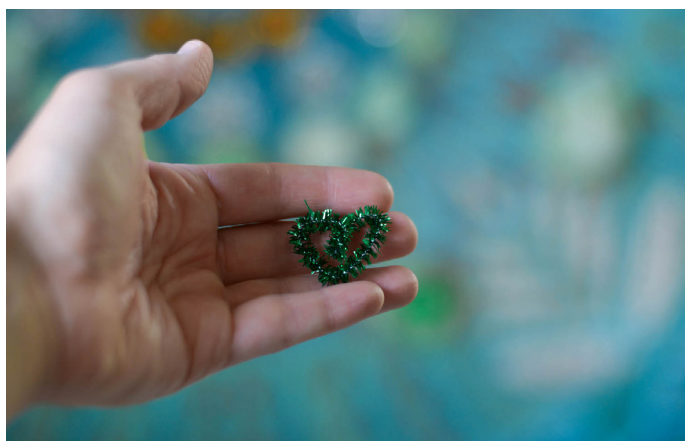


MANDALA MOSAIC ART PROJECT

*An intergenerational, worship art project
for a series on stewardship*

Project guide written by
Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Mandala art template designed by
Lauren Wright Pittman



INTRODUCTION

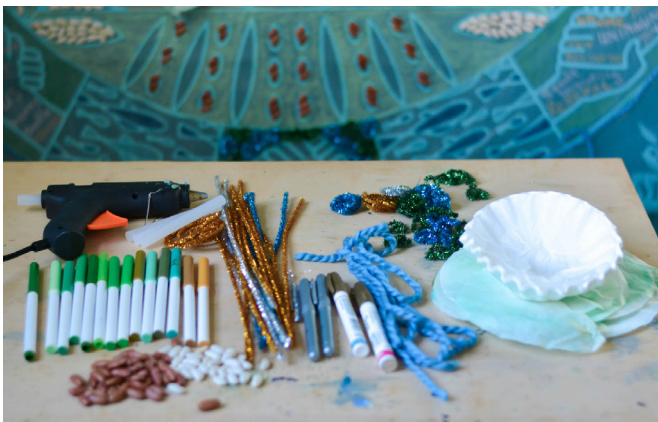
The best stories captivate and transform us—they change how we live. This stewardship season, we invite you to remember, release, reimagine, and restore your money stories so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into. Perhaps you have not before experienced art and stewardship combined. Maybe you've even thought of these subject matters as incongruous or unrelated. However, stewardship, like art-making, is a spiritual practice. This project is designed to help you tangibly mark your progress throughout your stewardship series. Interweaving art elements into your worship and building from our template, you will work with a team to create a mandala mosaic.

What is a mandala? Meaning “circle” in Sanskrit, a mandala is a geometric, circular design used in Buddhist and Hindu traditions for meditation and prayer. Often, the design of the mandala represents a cosmos or universe and is used for spiritual transformation and healing. The mandala template used in this project nods to this Eastern tradition. The imagery within the rings of the mandala correspond to the scriptures in our four-weeks-long stewardship series, “Our Money Story.” We hope that your creative process in bringing this mandala to life is a spiritually transformative journey.

MATERIALS

The exact materials you use are completely up to you, as we hope you will use our template and guide as a starting point to make your own creation. You can use whatever materials you want as “mosaic tiles” to create dimension and color as you build the mandala from our template. Here are the materials we used to bring the mandala mosaic to life (*the amounts you need of each material will depend on how you integrate the project into your community and worship*):

- **The mandala mosaic template** printed or traced onto a large backdrop.¹ (*We printed our prototype as a 5'x5' mesh vinyl banner from GotPrint: <https://www.gotprint.com/products/banners/order.html?fid=3190237&size=516&quantity=1&grommets=115>.*)
- **Oil pastels.** (*Oil pastels can be found at your local art store or other retailers such as: Michaels, AC Moore, WalMart, Target.*)
- **Long pipe cleaners.** (*We used 12” long metallic tinsel sticks in gold, silver, blue, and green to follow our color palette: <https://www.dickblick.com/items/60923-0009/>.*)
- **Metallic Sharpie pens.** (*We recommend using gold and silver.*)
- **Large dried beans.** (*We recommend using two colors. We used red kidney and white cannellini beans.*)
- **White coffee filters.** (*We recommend the basket filters—the size for 1-4 cup coffee makers.*)
- **Washable markers.** (*We recommend using colors within our suggested color palette: greens, teals, and tans.*)
- **A few bowls filled with water.** (*This is to tie dye your coffee filters!*)
- **Hot glue guns.** (*With plenty of glue sticks!*)
- **Thick yarn.** (*We recommend a color within our suggested color palette.*)



¹ If you are able, we encourage you to print the mandala as a mesh vinyl banner. We have tested this material and discovered it works really well as the base for large, mixed media projects. The teal mandala file we have provided is for print as a 5'x5' banner. Contact us (contact@sanctifiedart.org) if you need a larger print file. However, you could also trace the mandala template onto thick paper, canvas, or wood—the possibilities are endless. Whatever you do, we encourage you to print/trace the mandala to be quite large (at least 5'x5') so that the shapes within the design are large enough for you to add color and mixed media tiles.

COLOR PALETTE & DESIGN

Creativity is often wild and boundless. Yet, beauty is birthed when the unending possibilities of our creativity are refined by some limitations and structure. Because this project provides you with many options for adding mixed media to the mandala template, you will have fun adding lots of layers with many hands joining you. However, we invite you to consider limiting the color palette of your materials to follow the palette we've selected. Limiting your palette will ensure that the mosaic comes together beautifully as many materials and hands bring it to life.

Note: Do not stress about following this palette exactly. As you will see, we selectively added metallic gold and silver, as well as hints of blue to our mandala mosaic. We hope this palette helps you narrow down your options and complete the project with an aesthetically-pleasing piece!

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 07545c | 4ca585 | 078587 | 99826d | f8c01b |
| 3fbed | a5d7b7 | b3dfd8 | d7c199 | fbdcad |

PREPARATION²

Before getting started, invite 1-2 project leaders to take the lead on organizing the materials, process, and execution of your project. Then, with your project leaders, read over this guide and make the following decisions:

WHERE WILL THE PROJECT BE DISPLAYED?

We encourage you to display the project in a high-traffic area in your space so that many people will be able to witness it come to life throughout your stewardship series. Consider how you will display the mandala mosaic. If you print the mandala mosaic on mesh vinyl or thick paper, you will need backing and a structure to display it upright (*a mobile dry erase or display board could work*). If you adhere the mosaic to a wall, back it with plastic to make sure your hot glue and markers do not mark up your wall. Ideally, your display location will also be where you add to the mosaic each week, so it will be best if you have access to an electrical outlet nearby.

HOW WILL YOU INTEGRATE THE PROJECT INTO WORSHIP?

We provide suggestions for integrating tangible elements into your worship—these elements can then be added to the mosaic. How you integrate these tangible elements will depend on the size of your community and your worshiping culture. If you are unable to add in the worship components, consider using the prayers we've included with those who help bring the project to life so that your creative process is also deeply prayerful.

WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU NEED?

Once you discern how/if you will integrate the tangible elements in worship, make a list of the materials you will need and how much you need of each item. You can follow our list of materials (*adapting amounts based on the size of your community*) or add onto it.

WHO WILL YOU INVITE TO HELP BRING THE PROJECT TO LIFE?

After worship each week, we encourage you to invite a small group to help you add color and mixed media layers to your mandala mosaic. You could easily do this with a Sunday school group, a youth group, a children's group, or a small group of adults. You could also set a "creative hour" each week for any community members to show up and help add to the mosaic. Your project leaders should guide the small group in your creative process each week.

² If you are worshipping from home due to COVID-19, prepare how you will adapt this project. You can distribute supplies to members in your community by mailing them or by creating a pickup box outside your church building. Collect supplies each week by inviting members to mail in their creations or drop them by the church. Appoint a project leader to create the project, sharing many process photos and videos with your larger community. A communal art project during a time of social distance can become a powerful way of feeling and staying connected.

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, *Founder, Creative Director of A Sanctified Art*

Lisle Gwynn Garrity (*she/her*) is a Pastorist (*pastor + artist*), retreat leader, and creative entrepreneur seeking to fill the church with more color, paint, mystery, and creativity. She founded A Sanctified Art with the conviction that, in order to thrive, the church needs more creative expression and art-filled freedom.

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, *Director of Branding, Founding Creative Partner of A Sanctified Art*

Lauren (*she/her*) is an artist, graphic designer, and theologian. She uses paint, metallic inks, and apple pencil to image the layered complexity she experiences in scripture texts. She also helps faith communities share their vibrant stories through branding & design services.



Join our community group on Facebook to share photos of your art and process with the global Sanctified Art community! facebook.com/groups/sanctifiedartcommunity