THE BROWN THRASHER'S SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION IS OF STABILITY, BALANCE, FREE WILL, AND INCLUSIVITY.
The Brown Thrasher

At my grandmother’s house
In central Louisiana
On a cold winter’s day.

The forest is quiet – really quiet -
As if asleep, dreamlike,
The day clear and crisp
With not a sound to be heard,
No leaves on the hardwoods,
The limbs exposed, naked, stark.

Suddenly, there is a sound,
At first faint, but I slowly move
Forward,
One careful foot before the other,
The noise getting
Louder,
A scratching, a scraping,
A box of soft items being
Shaken.

I crouch behind a large trunk,
Peeking around the edge
To see the brown spotted bird
With the long tail
Tossing its head to and fro,
Tossing leaves, making sound waves,
Making memories for a young man,
Memories of exploring the woods,
Memories of a safe space -
My grandma’s house,
A house of love,
A house of good smells,
A house of food,
A house of my past
That comes rushing up,
Leaving a lump in my throat,
The brown thrasher and grandma,
Sealed together in my mind,
Sealed for my eternity.

So welcome to Earth Church
Pull yourself up a pew
We’ll make some great memories
For eternity for you