On Viewing Tim Davies' Frari

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Santa Maria Frari smiles
from the windows of the inside tower.
The largest windows enlighten the inside,
while the smaller adorn the exterior,
much as larger insights of the self are hidden
by squints of protection.
The inside walls enfold the artist
like her womb, that held Jesus,
like a century that held those who built the basilica
to honor her.

From this tall bell tower
eyes watch the boats and ruins
and markets of Venice—
made miniature by distance.
From below, gondoliers, merchants, and sightseers
gaze at a giant monument—
while the artist steps through the cylinder from inside,
rotating slowly, as if turning on a potter’s wheel,
earth-colored and smooth, like the first human.