

## Advent @ Home with Woodstock Presbyterian Church

Nov. 29, 2020 Those Who Dream... keep awake

*Advent is traditionally a time for the Church to prepare and re-center itself, but also to get lost in the Dream of a Messiah. The Word of scripture and our liturgical tradition bring us together in anticipation of Christ's arrival and indwelling – both as a child and as the Savior of the world. This gathering has often taken the form of physical togetherness, but always has been, more importantly, spiritual. Together, we share the common threads of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Out of Love, our Advent experiences will likely remain at a distance this year, but nothing can separate us from our collective anticipation. As we worship together in Spirit, we join the Dream. We dare to dream fierce, brave new dreams for God's world.* +Pastor Kate



Tear Open the Heavens, By Lauren Wright Pittman, inspired by Isaiah 64:1-9

## Time for Reflection

“Those who Dream”, The Many

*There's so much sorrow here. So much shame and hurt and fear. And there's grief.  
Feels like the ache is never ending...*

*The night is long. Can't find sleep. Where has peace gone. It's so hard to breathe.*

*It's time to have fierce dreams, like Mary did. Brave dreams like Joseph did. New  
dreams, like Jesus did. 'Cause those who dream change everything.*

*Those who dream change everything.*

*Don't have the words to pray. There's no comfort, no joy today. Where is love?*

*We long to see a new beginning.*

*The night is long. Can't find sleep. Where has peace gone. It's so hard to breathe.*

*It's time to have fierce dreams, like Mary did. Brave dreams like Joseph did. New  
dreams, like Jesus did. 'Cause those who dream change everything.*

*Those who dream change everything.*

*Seeds grow in the dark. Oh Hope's born in the dark. Oh. Dreams start in the dark. So  
don't give up. Don't give up. It's time to have fierce dreams, like Mary did. Brave  
dreams like Joseph did. New dreams, like Jesus did. 'Cause those who dream change  
everything. Those who dream change everything.*

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

One: The power of dreams lies in waking up.

For when we close our eyes,

**All: We can see a better world.**

One: When we close our eyes,

**All: We can dream a better dream.**

One: But when we open our eyes,

**All: We begin the work of faith.**

One: The power of worship is the same.

When we enter Your space,

**All: We can see a better world.**

One: When we enter Your space,

**All: We dream a better dream.**

One: But when we leave Your space,

**All: We begin the work of faith.**

One: So come in. Dream your dream.

**All: Find hope here.**

One: For very soon,

**All: We will begin the work of faith.**

One: Let it be so.

## One Candle Liturgy – Hope

*Light a candle in your worship space a read out loud:*

Light one candle for hope.  
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,  
but hope just won't let go.  
Hope holds space for all our longings  
lingers on the edge of harsh reality  
like the dawn gently awakening the sky.  
"Keep awake," she whispers,  
"for the world is being made new."  
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:  
Christ with us.

**Children's Moment** - *Little People, Big Dreams: Audrey Hepburn* by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara, illustrated by Amaia Arrazola




*Dear God, please help me pay attention to the needs of others. Help me to live as though heaven is on earth and bring hope to everyone. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**Hymn** - "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.  
  
Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;**

**By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

### **Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>  as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.   
<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered  us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

### **Prayers**

Original Dreamer,  
Over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world.  
We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.

We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.  
We hear your dream for community and hope.  
We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.  
We continue to live with the curtains drawn,  
the covers pulled tight,  
eyes shut to the realities of the world.  
Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.  
Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world.  
With hope we pray, amen.

## Reading – Mark 13: 24-37

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he<sup>is</sup> near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert;<sup>for</sup> you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

## Message – Those Who Dream... Keep Awake

### Affirmation of Faith

One: We believe in God.

All: We believe that God has dreams for humanity.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit.

All: We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.

One: We believe in Jesus.

All: We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up, Inviting us to be the church in the world.

One: We believe in dreams.

All: We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.

One: So in this Advent season,

All: We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.

Charge – “All in All”

**It takes strength to dream.  
I imagine it's that same strength that leads  
people to say, “I love you” first,  
Those three vulnerable words,  
Wrapped in heart strings,  
Whispered,  
Because what could be  
Is too good to keep quiet about.**

**It takes strength to choose joy.  
It takes strength to push the covers  
Off our weary bodies morning after morning,  
To plant weary feet on solid ground,  
And look for signs of beauty.**

**It takes strength to remember that  
we are not alone,  
But the story starts with bone of bone and  
flesh of flesh.  
That feels like so long ago.**

**Oh yes,  
It takes strength to dream.  
I imagine that's why many choose not to,  
For it would be far easier to simply sleep.  
But there are always those who dream,  
Those who are up at night picturing  
what could be,  
Because this world is too good not to.**

**So we say, “I love you.”  
We push the covers off.  
We find solid ground.  
We look for beauty.  
And we dream.  
We dare to dream.**

**Sending Song – “Hope Waits for Us”**

**Hope waits for us at Advent. Hope waits for us to trust.  
Hope waits for our commitment to a land that’s kind and just.  
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,  
For the birthing of a world that heals the ones in pain,  
Hope is born in us again.**

Thank You:

Liturgists – Carolina Rascoe, Jessica Jones, Irene Mertens

Tech support – Lori Staley, JJ Jones

Credits:

Those who Dream liturgy – A Sanctified Art

Prayers adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](https://sanctifiedart.org).”

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