

## Advent @ Home Dec. 6 2020, Woodstock Presbyterian Church

### Those Who Dream... prepare the way

*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 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*



### The Beginning of the Good News

Inspired by Mark 1:1-8 | Digital painting

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

## 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: John the Baptist said, “Prepare the way.”

So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

**All: We silence the inner critic.**

**We let go of busy thoughts.**

**We make space for God to speak.**

One: How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

**All: We bless all emotions.**

**We feel what we feel.**

**We open ourselves up to be moved.**

One: How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

**All: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space.**

**We breathe in God's mercy.**

**We exhale God's love.**

One: How do we prepare our souls for worship?

**All: We bring our full selves into this space.**

**We wear our hearts on our sleeves.**

**We trust that even now, God is here.**

Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives.

So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

One Candle Liturgy – “Peace”, Malinda Johnston, Thomas & James

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

Light one candle for peace.  
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,  
but we refuse to be frozen by fear.  
Peace comes in fits and starts-  
a deep breath  
a courageous truth  
a humble heart.  
“Prepare the way,” she whispers,  
“for the Lord comes to make the broken whole.”  
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:  
Christ with us.

Children's Moment - *Little People, Big Dreams: Rosa Parks* by Lisbeth Kaiser,

illustrated by Marta Antelo

**Dear God, even when it's scary,  
I want to be a peacemaker.  
Help me to prepare the way for other people  
to follow you to a kinder, more equal world.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Reading – Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;<sup>[a]</sup>  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,<sup>[b]</sup>

lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

## Hymn – O Come O Come, Emmanuel

### Reading – Mark 1:1-18

The beginning of the good news<sup>[a]</sup> of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,<sup>[c]</sup>

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,<sup>[d]</sup>  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared<sup>[e]</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with<sup>[f]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with<sup>[g]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

## The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[h]</sup> with you I am well pleased.”

## The Temptation of Jesus

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

## The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news<sup>o</sup> of God,<sup>u</sup> <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;<sup>ks</sup> repent, and believe in the good news."<sup>u</sup>

## **Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Message – Those Who Dream... Prepare the Way

Communion

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

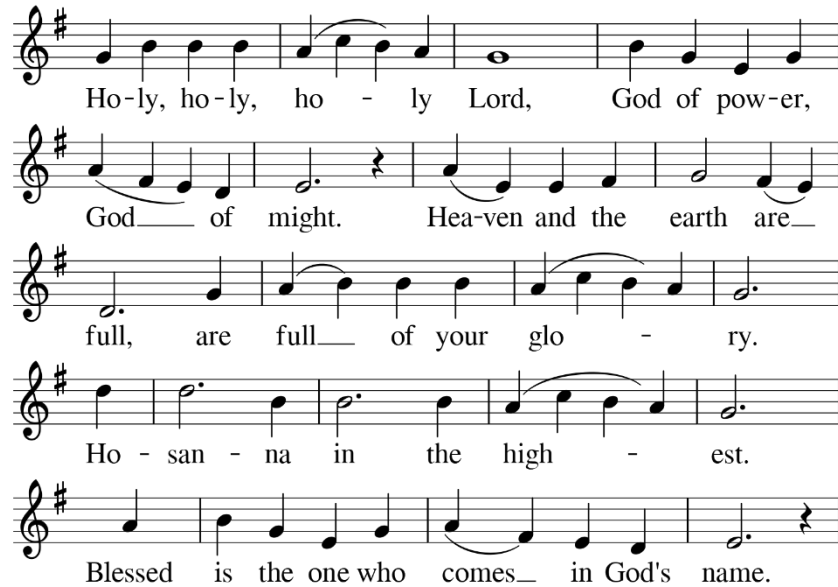
Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty  
to give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning,  
you dreamed of a world that would be good—  
of mountains, valleys, and oceans;  
of the changing of seasons;  
of laughter and the magic of music;  
of a creation united with you in love.  
You dreamed of this world, O God,  
and you formed it into being.

And when we, who bear your image in this world,  
turned away from you,

you did not turn from us.

Rather, in love, you held fast to your dream—  
working, shaping, and suffering to make it reality.

And so we praise you  
with the faithful of every time and place.



Ever-present God,  
your prophets dreamed of the day  
when you would tear the heavens and come down,  
and in Christ, their dream became reality.

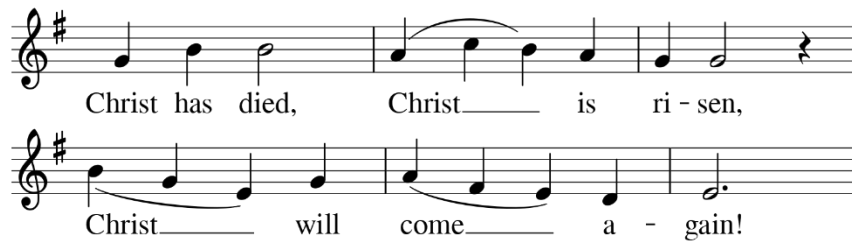
Come down now, we pray,  
upon this bread and cup  
and make them be for us  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ;

Who at supper with his disciples,  
took bread, gave thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,  
“This is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup

and gave it to them saying,  
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.



Creating God,  
send your Spirit upon your people  
that we too may dream your dream—  
of the lion lying down with the lamb,  
of justice rolling like a mighty river,  
of swords beaten into plowshares,  
of prisoners set free.  
May we dream your dream,  
and then, as we wake,  
empower us with your Spirit,,  
and work to make your dream reality.

Form us with your dream, everlasting God, we pray. **Amen.**

Bread of Life, be light in our darkness.

**Christ is the Light of the world.**

Cup of Salvation, be strength for our journey.

**Christ is the Hope of the world.**

The gifts of God

**for the people of God.**

Let us come for all things are now ready.



## Prayers

Charge & Benediction - "All in All", by Sarah Are

**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.

Peace waits for us at Advent. Peace waits for us to rest.  
Peace waits for our acceptance of the truth that we are blessed.  
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,  
For the birthing of a world of gentleness and play,  
Peace is born in us each day.

Credits:

*Liturgists:*  
*Hal & Pat Ladehoff*  
*Malinda Johnston, Thomas & James*  
*Tech Support:*  
*Lori Staley, JJ Jones*

*Those who Dream liturgy – A Sanctified Art LLC*  
*All in All” by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*  
*One Candle liturgy - Karen Ware Jackson, 2020 – Permission is granted for home and congregational use.*

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