



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

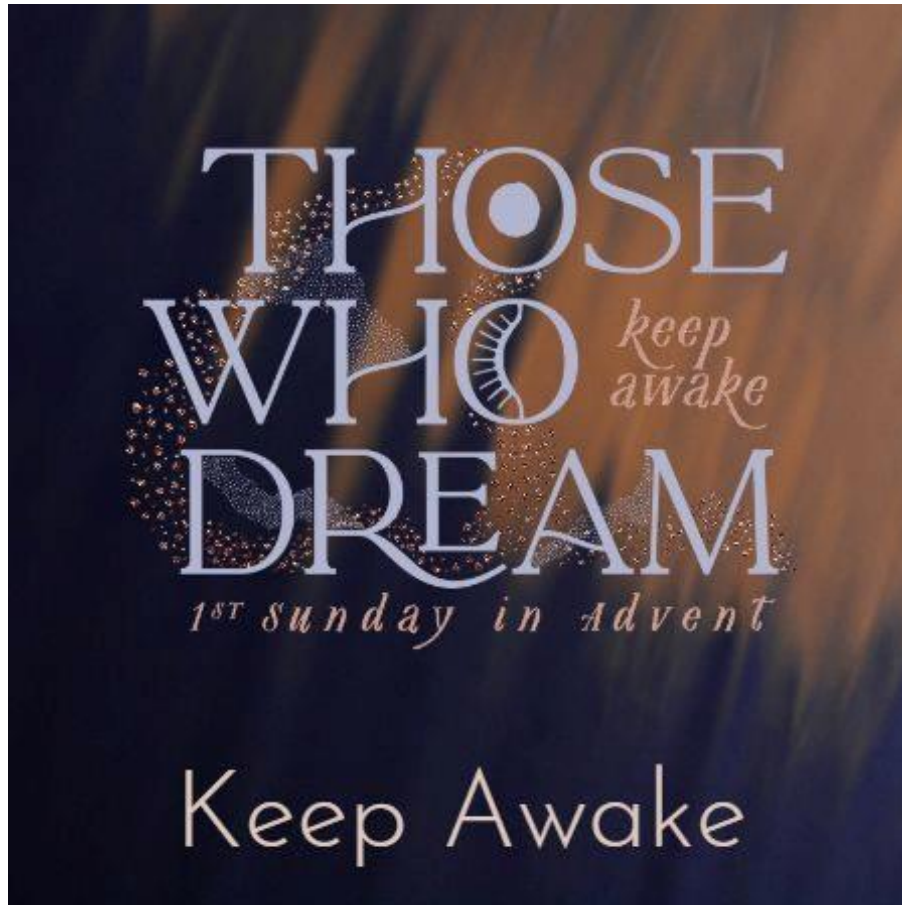
Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome To Worship

December 3, 2023

9:30 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope



Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

“Those Who Dream...Keep Awake in Hope” Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Welcoming music** ~ Tippe Musicians

Singing bowl/Chimes

✧ **Introit: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Human One appears.

Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel / shall come to you O Israel.

O come, now Wisdom from on high and order all things far and nigh:
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go.

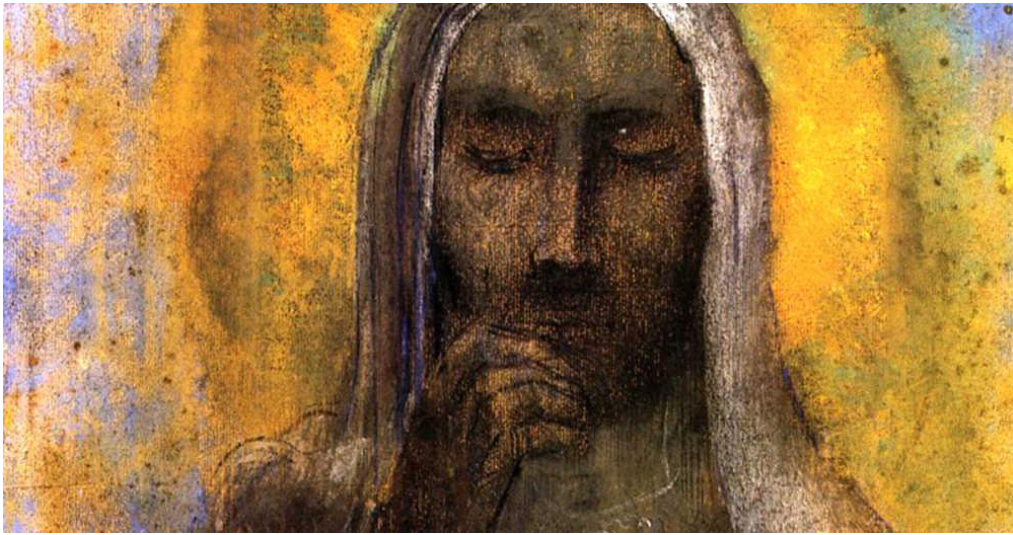
✧ **Prelude: Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

- We are seeking folks to serve alongside us in our Divine Intervention warming room – there are many ways to participate – check with Pastor Trish for details.
- We are invited to worship with Grace Presbyterian at Grace (2921 S Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee 53207) on December 24th at 10 am for their Christmas Eve morning service, and then Tippe invites everyone to join us for our Christmas Eve service that afternoon at 4 pm.
- Sanctuary Time of Belonging will continue to gather on Zoom at 6:30 pm weekly, but we are shifting from Mondays to Wednesdays – join us for our first Wednesday this week on December 6th

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!
Surely God is in this place,
Holy Ground!



God's Dream for the World ~ Greg Boyd

✧ **A Poetry Prayer as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

All in All ~ Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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.

✧ **Becoming Present to God and Each Other - Our Check-in**

~ **The Joy of Passing the Peace** ~

One: May the peace that surpasses all understanding be with you

All: And also with you

One: Thanks be to God

✧ **Gathering as God's People: *Those Who Dream***

While studying this season's lectionary scriptures, the opening lines from Psalm 126 jumped off the page: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.

This theme is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world.

✧ **While We are Waiting, Come**

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Christ, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Candle-lighting ~ The Candle of Hope

A: I dream of sunflower fields.

B: I dream of key lime pie with a mile-high meringue.

A: I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.

B: I dream of snow days.

A: I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

B: I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.

A: I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.

B: I dream of schools with enough money to teach.

A: I dream of parents with enough money to feed.



B: I dream to keep awake, because if we don't dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.

A: So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.

(Light the candle of hope)

B: May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

A: May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream.

Amen.

✧ **Gathering Hymn *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* 107**

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

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 this space,

All: We can see a better world.

One: When we enter this space,

All: We dream a better dream.

One: But when we leave this space,

All: We begin the work of faith.

One: So come in. Dream your dream.

All: Find hope here.

One: For after our gathered worship,

All: We will begin the work of faith.

One: Let it be so.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

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.

✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

O Great Dreamer,

You dreamed up the stars in the sky.

You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream sinks into coffee.

You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music.

You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen and the pure magic that is a six-foot-tall sunflower.

And in the midst of all of that, you dreamed up a dream for your people—

a dream of hope and justice,

a dream for eyes wide open, to both the world's suffering and the world's beauty.

So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you would plant that same dream in us.

Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may see what you see,

and dream what you dream.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

✧ **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.**

✧ **Music for Those Who Dream** (song sheets) ~ Pat Bowne, guitar

✧ **Prayer of Intention**

Holy Spirit, may we hear your gracious Word for us today. May we grow in wisdom, strength, and love as we open our ears, our minds, and our hearts to the transformative message you have in store for each of us. Amen.

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teachings**

Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at
your presence—

2 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!

3 When you did awesome deeds that we
did not expect,

you came down, the mountains
quaked at your presence.

4 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 you.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

8 **Yet**, O God, you are our Parent;
we are the clay, and you are our
potter;

we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, Adonai,

and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13: 24-27, 32-37

24 'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see "the Christ coming in clouds" with great power and glory.

27 Then the angels will be sent out, and the elect will be gathered from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

32 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the
Christ, but only Yahweh. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will
come. 34 It is like a person going on a journey, when they leave home and put their
slaves in charge, each with their work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the
watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the ruler of the house will
come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else the
sovereign may suddenly arrive and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to
all: Keep awake.'

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our
tradition.

All: Thanks be to our God.

✧**Message** "Keep Awake in Hope" Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Reflection Question**

- What does it look like to live with a posture of “wakefulness”—attentive to ourselves, others, and to God?
- What are the dreams we carry with us into this Advent season?
- What dreams from this past year have unraveled or been deferred?
- What new dreams must be nurtured in this season?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn For You, O Christ, My Soul in Stillness Waits 89 (vs. 1, 2, 3)**

✧ **Our gifts of support**

As we enter this season of preparation, may we remain awake to the ways that we can contribute to our community and our world. May we give generously as we await the one who will come.

✧ **Community Prayers**

✧ **Pastoral Prayer**

✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread Communion of the People**



Welcome

In a way, Advent is always the beginning of the end. But we do not celebrate as if it is a funeral dirge. Instead, we increase the light with candles, we decorate festively, we celebrate. The progression of Advent is hope, peace, joy, and love. These are not emotions – they are a way of being. We cannot pick and choose them: they build upon one another. Hope is necessary to have peace. Without peace, there can be no joy. Joy begets love.

And it all begins with hope.

As we hear in Isaiah, our iniquities draw us away from God. We suffer moments of poor judgement. We make mistakes. We fail. This doesn't mean we don't value our relationships or care for the world, but it does mean that we don't place our hope in them. They are not the source of our identity. Our identity is found in the Triune God.

Let us offer our thanks.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

In the love of God, we have been given life and the world in which to live it. Even as the leaves have turned and fallen away and the snow will soon settle and cover the earth, we know the promise of life never ends. As God gives us the Sabbath of winter, we know that spring is being readied.

ALL: For Creation and Sabbath, God, we give you thanks.

In the grace of Jesus Christ, we have been given new life and a world in which to share it. As we anticipate the Incarnation, we are reminded once again of Jesus' ministry among us. Preaching and healing, Jesus binds up what is broken and sets free that which is bound. Teaching and forgiving, Jesus feeds us on God's Word so that we can continue Christ's ministry in the world.

ALL: for your welcoming and sending, Jesus, we give you thanks.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit, we, the many, become one. Speaking to us through God's Word, we hear the message of both repentance and forgiveness. Living and active, the Holy Spirit calms the storms that churn within us while also calling us to rise up to give shelter to those struggling in the midst of their own storms.

ALL: For your tending and encouraging, Holy Spirit, we give you thanks.

Holy Spirit, we gather once again at the Table, wishing to be fed by the Sovereign. May the loaf and cup that nourish our bodies also be communion with Christ, nourishing our souls. Unify your Church so that we may take your hope into the world.

Together, we join our voices, praying the prayer Jesus taught us:

✧**The Lord's Prayer**

**ALL: Beloved,
our Father and Mother,
in whom is heaven,
hallowed be your name,
followed be your royal way,
done be your will and rule,
throughout the whole creation.**

**With the bread we need for today,
Feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one
another,**

Forgive us.

**In times of temptation and test,
Strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure,
Spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil,
Free us.
For you reign in the glory of the
power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.**

From 'Human Rites' by Ward and Wild

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

The only thing that will never fail us is our hope in Jesus Christ. God's love poured into us through the Holy Spirit. This Table and meal are proof of that. At this Table we are reminded of the violence of this world. Jesus' body broken and blood shed. But in this broken body and shed blood, the seed of hope were planted. Hope that blossoms into peace, bearing the fruit of joy and love. We gather and celebrate this meal in remembrance of Jesus, proclaiming our hope in the Risen Christ until he comes again.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Faithful and Loving god, you have once again nourished us on your Word. As people saved by our hope in you, we give thanks for the love you have poured into us. May this

love flow freely from us to others as we carry your certain and saving hope into the world. Amen.

✧ **Benediction**

Be people of hope.

Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.

Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Share hope by listening to someone's story.

Share hope by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet.

Amen.

Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.

✧ **Our Response:**

Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.

✧ **Postlude** ~ Tippe Musicians

Advent liturgical materials developed by A Sanctified Art sanctifiedart.org

Communion liturgy adapted from the work of Rev. Michelle Henrichs' communion text, "Come to the Table"

