



THOSE
WHO *keep awake*
DREAM
1st Sunday in Advent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 29, 2020

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

You will be invited to light a candle in your home at the same time the candle in the sanctuary is lit. We will follow the lighting of our candles with this response:

May this light be an invitation to keep awake and may it be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

William Hall

CALL TO WORSHIP

The power of dreams lies in waking up.

For when we close our eyes, we can see a better world.

When we close our eyes, we can dream a better dream.

But when we open our eyes, we begin the work of faith.

The power of worship is the same.

When we enter this holy time, we can see a better world and dream a better dream.

But when our service of worship is over, we begin the work of faith.

So come in. Dream your dream. Find hope here.

And when the postlude concludes, let the work of faith begin.

HYMN NO.44 (vs. 1, 4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;

Cast our out sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

ANTHEM

Star of Advent

Pepper Choplin

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:24-37

SERMON

“Life in Act 2”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God.

We believe that God has dreams for humanity.

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

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

We believe in Jesus.

We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up, inviting us to be the church in the world. We believe in dreams.

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

So in this Advent season, We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN NO.2

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.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

R. Prichard, arr. M. Kellner