



November 29, 2020

9:30 am

1st Sunday in Advent

Those Who Dream... *keep awake (hope)*



*Text printed in **BOLD** in the bulletin indicates that everyone is to read and/or sing. However, in our virtual space we ask that all but the readers and musicians remain muted – you can still read aloud and sing at home!*

“Sing to GOD a brand-new song, sing God’s praises all over the world!”

Isaiah 42:10, *The Message*

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome and Life of the Community (Announcements)

Opening Song

Dream God’s Dream¹

Bryan Sirchio

**I’m dreaming of a world where the color of one’s skin
Will mean less than what’s within the person’s heart.
A world where water’s clean and where air is safe to breathe.
And every child born has enough to eat.**

**Dream God’s dream! Holy Spirit help us dream
Of a world where there is justice and where everyone is free**

¹ Bryan Sircho, *Dream God’s Dream*, in *Sing! Prayer and Praise* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2009), #120.

**To build and grow and love, and to simply have enough.
The world will change, when we dream God's dream.**

Call to Worship²

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 in an hour,

All: We will begin the work of faith.

One: Let it be so.

Candle Lighting: The Candle of Hope

Kaitlin, Peter, Wesley, & Quincy Young

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.

² Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Daniel 6:10-23, 25-27

The Inclusive Bible

Time with Children: A Sunday School Lesson

Rebecca Malke

Special Music

Reflection

Those Who Dream... *keep awake*

Pastor Kris

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Pastor Kris will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org

Prayer of Jesus

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.

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.

Virtual Offering

Thank you to those who regularly give electronically. We understand that the pandemic impacts each of us in unique ways. Note that Memorial UCC has a

NEW opportunity for you to give via PayPal! You can give securely via charge card, debit card, and direct withdrawal donations. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure and you do not even need to have a PayPal account to use the service to make single, one-time donations. [CLICK HERE](#) to give.

Checks can be mailed directly to the church. Indicate in the memo line whether the giving is to Memorial operating costs or help to our community wide nonprofit partners. If you are interested in our monthly automatic withdrawal system, please email John Van Overbeke at jvanoverbe@aol.com and he will get you signed up.

Offertory

Come, God, Be with Us

Ben Logan

Prayer of Dedication

Generous and loving God, you give us everything we need. Surrounded and supported by your love, there is nothing we lack. As we bring our offerings to you, may they support your dream of peace and justice, and bring hope to the world. As we bring ourselves to you, mold and shape us as you will, then send us forth to serve. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

Song for Going Out #116 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel³ verses 1 & 7

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear. *Refrain***

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

**O come, Desire of Nations,
bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole worlds with heaven's peace. *Refrain***

Benediction

Postlude

People, Look East

Paul Taylor

³ Melody from a 15th-century French "Processional"; Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854; *New Century Hymnal* #116.

Today's Virtual Worship Leaders

Jonathan Schroerlucke, Jeff Darwin, Rebecca Malke, Pastor Kris

Readers: Jill Carlson and Connie Hay

Advent Candle Lighting: The Young family

Virtual Usher: Steve Gorton



Stay for Virtual Coffee Hour!

Following the service, you are invited to stay for conversation. Bring your own coffee, milk and/or donuts! All you need to do is to stay "in" Zoom as the service ends (don't click "leave meeting").

We will break into small groups that will last about 15 minutes. At the beginning of the breakout, introduce yourself, share how you are doing, and/or share where you have seen the Spirit move in your life this week. At the end of the 15 minutes we will gather again in a larger group and share our experiences.

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