



Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

"I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings."

William Sloane Coffin, Credo, pg 7

~ Welcome Visitors! ~

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

Children: Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. After the Message for All, children are welcome to head back to join in Sunday School. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a [Prayer Ground](#) set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

Generous Giving: Dreaming God's Dream

Artist Adrian Sanchez, currently incarcerated in a California Institution for Men, created the "Process of Life" (cover image) as part of an arts program funded by a local congregation. He reflects, "I believe that our young ones begin life with innocent hearts. I have learned that there are better ways to do things without violence. We artists were asked to

imagine what a city of compassion would look like and how the people there could cooperate so that everyone would have enough food. The Process of Life shows that there is pride and hope in carrying out positive ways of thinking about things like this.”

Sanchez’ art reminds us of the power of dreams – that the chick can become the rooster, that the whisper of the Spirit can become a movement for transformation, that no gift is too small to help make God’s Dream a reality.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress

Matt Limbaugh

Welcome and Community Connections

Introit

Call to Worship¹

One: God has a new dream for us!

All: We are not sure we are ready for change.

One: God has a new dream for us!

All: We are listening for God’s calling.

One: God has a new dream for us!

All: Let’s reimagine together with God. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, we are challenged by the idea of your dream for us. We are overwhelmed by all the need. How can we build circles of protection for all who need safety? How can we build a sanctuary worthy to worship you? As we listen to these sacred stories again today, inspire us with gratitude and patience. Remind us that the ancient walls were rebuilt one stone at a time. What are you calling us to reimagine? Amen.

***Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

NCH 439

¹ Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Confession from UCC’s Dreaming God’s Dream stewardship resources

HEARING THE WORD

Hebrew Scripture

Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4,10-13

Special Music

Hebrew Scripture continues

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Message for All

Prayer of Jesus²

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.**

**Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.**

After the Message for All, children are invited to participate in Sunday School, sit by their family in the sanctuary, or at the Prayer Ground

Reflection

Invitation to Confession

One: We often don't like the idea of rebuilding. We can get stuck in grief over what we have lost and in anger that rebuilding is necessary. Let us turn to God with our pain, so that God can provide healing and inspiration.

² Palmer, Parker J. Posted on Spirituality and Practice,
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/wartime.php?id=15807>

Prayer of Confession

All: God of renewal, we confess that we don't always like change and that, sometimes, we resist new things. When we don't participate in your new dreams, we miss out on our potential. Forgive our dragging feet, and move us forward to renew, rebuild and reimagine. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: God was with the people through war, captivity and exile. God called them back to renewal and rebuilding. In the same way, God is with us through every loss, ready to rebuild on the other side. Be assured that God's steadfast love is strong enough to overcome all and to dream again. Amen.

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. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Peter at 608-338-2268. She 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: pastorpeter@memorialucc.org

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

Song for Going Out** ***Dream God's Dream bulletin insert

Benediction

Postlude ***Now Thank We All Our God*** Matt Limbaugh

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Pastor Kris Gorton, and Pastor Peter Morris

Readers: John Koeppel and Merry Spangler

Ushers: Steve Gorton and Haylie Schmit

Media Room: Jordan Baumgart

Fellowship: Cindy & John Rosch

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you



Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Visit memorialucc.org and click the "giving" link in the upper

right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at halpincjo@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at pastorkris@memorialucc.org or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
 4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;

Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.

For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
 save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.

There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.

Martin Luther, c. 1529

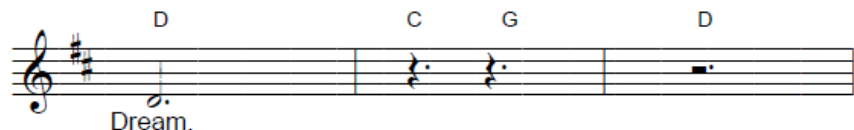
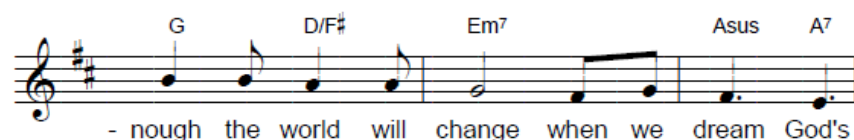
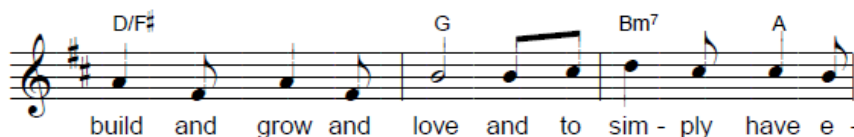
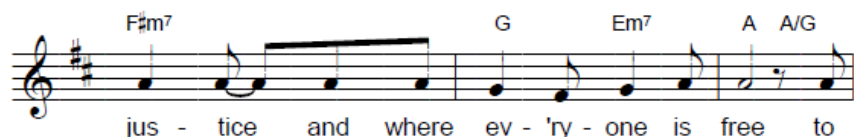
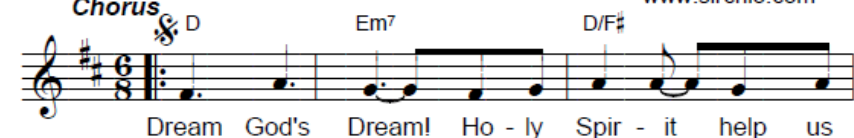
Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.

For another version, see 440

Dream God's Dream

Bryan Sirchio
www.sirchio.com

Chorus



Dream God's Dream, p.2

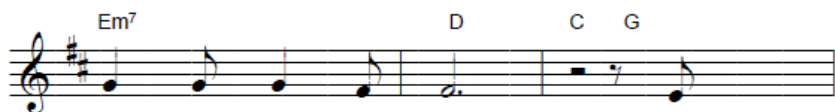


Verses

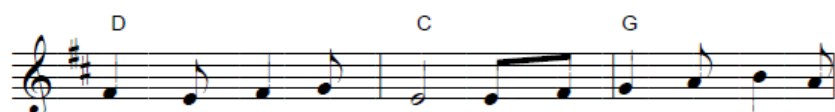
I'm dream - ing of a world where the
I'm dream - ing of the call God is
I'm dream - ing of the way that I



col - or of one's skin will mean less than what's with -
of - fer - ing to me; how to use my en - er -
want my life to go. I've got hopes and I've got



in the per - son's heart. A
gy and my best gifts to I'm
goals I'd like to meet.



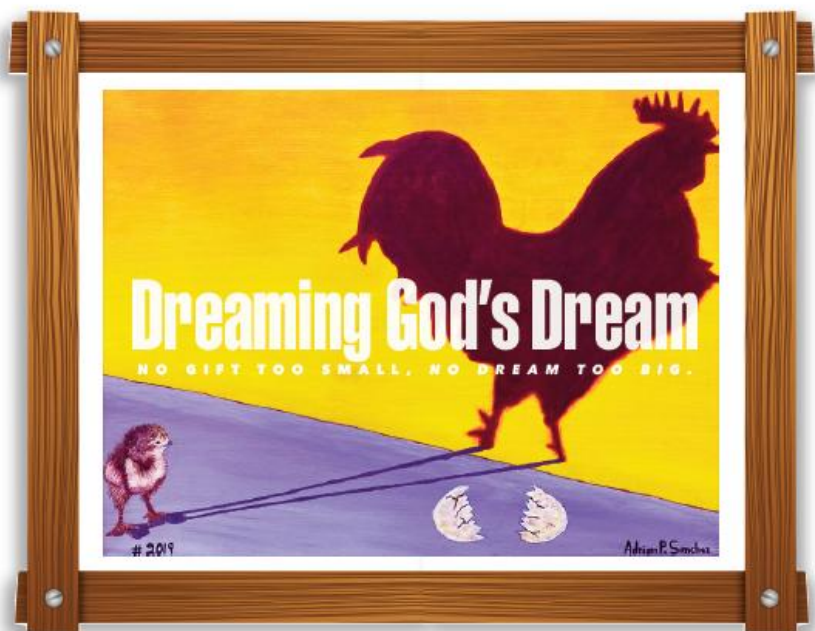
world where wa - ter's clean and where air is safe to
do the work of Christ, to say God, please use my
reach - ing for the stars, but I won't for - get the



breathe. And ev' - ry chi - ld born has e -
life to spread your heal - ing love and to
scars of Christ who died to show that the



nough live to your eat. dream.
Dream's for Truth. all.



The Church as Innkeeper

"All humanity are our neighbors."

St. Augustine of Hippo

The familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of the Priest and the Levite who walked past a person in the ditch and the Good Samaritan who stopped to help. We often overlook another character in the story: the innkeeper. The Good Samaritan brought the wounded person to the inn, where the innkeeper nursed them to health until the Good Samaritan returned.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on this parable, highlights the unique role of the innkeeper, who provided a place where healing could happen. What would it mean to understand our congregation as an "inn" for Good Samaritan work? Can we see our community as a place where healing happens?

The innkeeper's role included managing resources, ensuring the inn's readiness, and extending mercy and help – roles we mirror when we care for one another and open ourselves up to caring for those in our community.

Focusing on the innkeeper can also challenge the ways we operate our building. Having a building is not the point of church. Rather, the building serves as a tool of our ministry. A church facility matters only because it can *facilitate our mission*.

Your gifts to our congregation help us provide a place of healing in our community, an "inn" where Good Samaritan ministry can happen.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.

Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



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