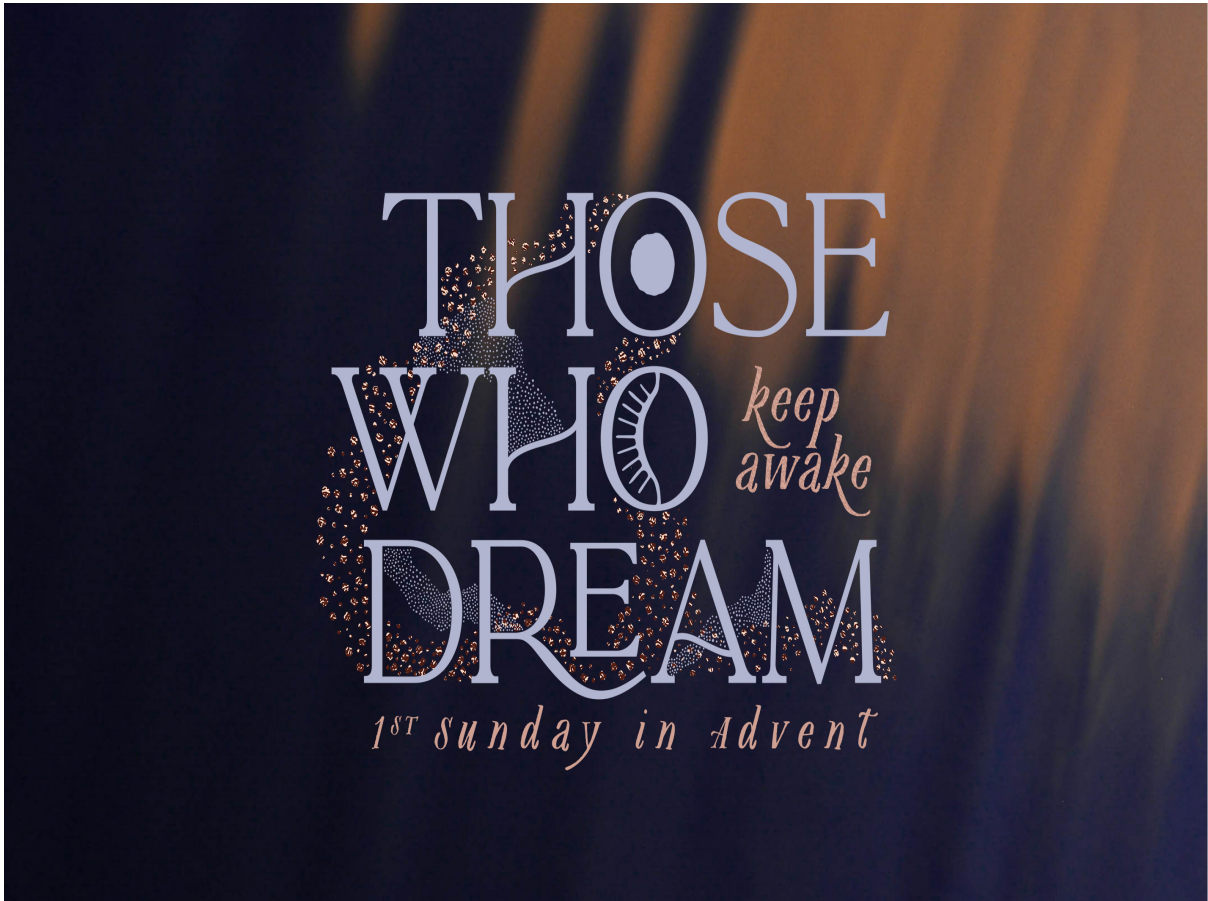


Sunday Worship- November 29, 2020



Those Who Dream...Keep Awake!

First Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

*"Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service."*

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

DARING TO DREAM

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Candle of HOPE

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

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

Light candle.

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

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

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

HYMN #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel verses 1-2, 7

*1: O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

*Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

*2: O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. REFRAIN*

*7: O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. REFRAIN*

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us make our confession to God together:

All: 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 by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Time of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1, 10)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen!

RESPONSE #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel verse 6

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace and hope of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

SCRIPTURE

L: In the beginning was the Word.

P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV) –The Necessity for Watchfulness

Reader 1: “But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Reader 2: Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Reader 1: “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Reader 2: “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Why Don't You Tear Apart the Heavens

John Bell

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Those Who Dream...Keep Awake!

HYMN

#94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

*1: Now the heavens start to whisper
As the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
To the stirring, faint within:
Seed of promise, deeply planted,
Christ to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frost-line,
Hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*2: Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
Now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
Shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor,
Gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
Hearts grow warm to welcome him.*

*3: Christ, eternal sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
Come to bless with fire and fragrance
Hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger;
In the outcast hid from view:
Child who comes to grace the manger,
Teach our hearts to welcome you.*

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

L: Everything we have is a gift from God,
and our offerings are a way of acknowledging God as the giver.
They are no less an act of worship than our presence, prayers and praise.
Let us make our offering to God as a sign of our thanks,
and that we are awake, aware and working for the dreams God has for our world.

OFFERTORY DANCE PARTY!!!!

SONG OF RESPONSE #100 Cantic of the Turning, Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray our thanks together.

**All: God, Dreamer of Dreams,
we come to this season of Advent with expectant and thankful hearts.
We welcome the renewed promise
of your love, justice and righteousness breaking into our world.
We offer these gifts and the service of our lives with joy
for all you have done, are doing and will do.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

HYMN #82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*1. 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.*

*2. 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

POSTLUDE