

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent



Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: I dream of sunflower fields.

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

One: I dream of snow days.

Two: I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

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

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

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

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

One: 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.

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

Light candle.

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

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

Prelude

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Setting: James Mansfield

Greeting and Announcements of the Church

Call to Worship:

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.

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

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.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Promise of the Gospel

This season of Advent, we are reminded to open our hearts and allow Christ to come to anew. As we open our hearts, breathe hope in us, a hope that helps us to see you in every moment.

Hymn # 105

People, Look East, vs. 1,4,5

[Besancon]

Children's Sermon:

Rev. Peggy Huston

Scripture Lesson

Mark 13: 24-37

Sermon

"Distracted"

Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston

Special Music

There is no Rose

Connor Koppin

Vox Nova Chorale

Director: Connor Koppin

The Offering

Moment For Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Alternative Christmas Gifts on-line

Giving for Refugee families

Prayers of the People

Refrain: One: God of grace

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

"...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

Hymn #97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night, vs. 1-3

[Aberystwyth]

Benediction

Rev. Peggy Huston

Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

[Wachet Auf]

Setting: Michael Burkhardt

Liturgist: Rev. Alice Fleming Townley

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Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston, Interim Minister

Rev. Alice Fleming Townley, Assistant Pastor

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Connor Koppin, Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Sue Schnackenberg, CE Director for Youth &

Children *Edward Ennen*, Sexton

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Natalie Sweeney, Soloist