



Nativity Lutheran Church  
Rockport, Maine  
November 29, 2020

Prelude

Call to Worship

P: The power of dreams lies in waking up.

For when we close our eyes,

**C: We can see a better world.**

P: When we close our eyes,

**C: We can dream a better dream.**

P: But when we open our eyes,

**C: We begin the work of faith.**

P: The power of worship is the same.

When we enter this time together,

**C: We can see a better world.**

P: When we enter this time together,

**C: We dream a better dream.**

P: But when we leave this time together,

**C: We begin the work of faith.**

P: So come in. Dream your dream.

**C: Find hope here.**

P: For in an hour,

**C: We will begin the work of faith.**

P: Let it be so.

Opening Hymn

*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

ELW #242

Advent Wreath Lighting Litany

*You are invited to light your home Advent Wreath when you hear the words  
"So today we light the candle of..." Be sure to have a lighter or matches available.*

Prayer of Confession

A: Creator of all, 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,

**C: 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.**

Hymn

*Come Let Us Dream*

Handout

Prayer of Illumination

A: Let us pray

**C: Great Dreamer,**

**You dreamed up the stars in the sky.**

**You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream sinks into coffee.**

**You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music.**

**You dreamed up the smells of spruce and pine and  
the pure magic that is waves crashing on rocks.**

**And in the midst of all of that, you dreamed up a dream for your people—  
a dream of hope and justice,**

**a dream for eyes wide open, to both the world's suffering and the world's beauty.**

**So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you plant that same dream in us.**

**Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may see what you see,  
and dream what you dream.**

**Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7,17-19

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;

shine forth, you that are enthroned up- on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**

**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,**

**how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**

**the one you have made so strong for yourself. R**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**

**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

ELW #436

Affirmation of Faith

P: We believe in God.

**C: We believe that God has dreams for humanity.**

P: We believe in the Holy Spirit.

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

P: We believe in Jesus.

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

P: We believe in dreams.

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

P: So in this Advent season,

**C: We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.**

#### Prayers of the People

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing

severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and illnesses of any kind. We pray *especially* for.... Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### Offering Prayer

**Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.  
Amen.**

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 trespasses,**

**as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Sending and Blessing

May you have the strength to dream wild dreams of justice, peace, and joy that overflows.  
May you have the humanity to listen to the dreams of others.  
May you have the confidence to trust that the God who heard the cries of the Israelites in Egypt,  
hears your dreams as well.  
And may you have the conviction to return to this community,  
for our best dreams are those we dream together.  
The Creator of dreams and stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit awaken you and guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Closing Hymn

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* ELW # 244

Postlude

Announcements

Fellowship

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Please remember in your prayers this week

Tina Huntley, Roger Bodamer, Kathleen Sheets and family, Karin Pratt, Sue Dawson, Esther Guy, Janet Dawson, Lester Avery, Ethan Thompson, Irene Olson, Dick Pelletier, Peter DeRuitter, Beth Guiseley, Martha Sterrett, Ray Geraldson, Christopher LeLacheur, Peter Perry, Irene Eaton, Peter Perry II, Carla Sykora, Ray Geraldson, Karin Pratt, Sharon Rowling, Linda and Timothy Pratt.

Scripture for individual devotions or study this week:

<b>Mon — Nov. 30</b>	Micah 4:1-5	Revelation 15:1-8	Psalm 79
<b>Tue — Dec. 1</b>	Micah 4:6-13	Revelation 18:1-10	Psalm 79
<b>Wed — Dec. 2</b>	Micah 5:1-5a	Luke 21:34-38	Psalm 79
<b>Thu — Dec. 3</b>	Hosea 6:1-6	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
<b>Fri — Dec. 4</b>	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Acts 11:19-26	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
<b>Sat — Dec. 5</b>	Ezekiel 36:24-28	Mark 11:27-33	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Revised Common Lectionary readings for next Sunday, December 6, The 2nd Sunday in Advent:

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

## Announcements for this week:

- One of the ways we can actively wait for the coming of Jesus is to spend more time in personal devotion AND corporate worship. Although we can't be in the same space together, we can join together in the wonderful service of *Holden Evening Prayer* offered virtually on Tuesday evenings in December at 7 pm. Beginning this Tuesday December 1. Zoom information for all four weeks is <https://zoom.us/j/93463952903?pwd=MjIKc0R1T1B4VEtZV0ozTXQwdTV5QT09>  
Meeting ID: 934 6395 2903, Passcode: 04856  
If you're using a phone: 1 312-626-6799 US (Chicago) or 1-646-558 8656 US (New York), Meeting ID: 934 6395 2903, Passcode: 04856
- Daily devotions in the "Those Who Dream Devotional Booklet" begin today. If you did not receive a copy or need extra copies, we can print them in the office or email you a PDF file to print at home. Email or call Pastor Anderson.
- Pastor will be offering a short Advent Bible Study following our Those Who Dream theme via Zoom on Tuesdays, 6:15 – 6:50 p.m. before Holden Evening Prayer. Use the same Zoom connection as above. Check the December View or watch for an upcoming email with more information on how to prepare.