

First Baptist Church in Needham 2nd Sunday of Advent

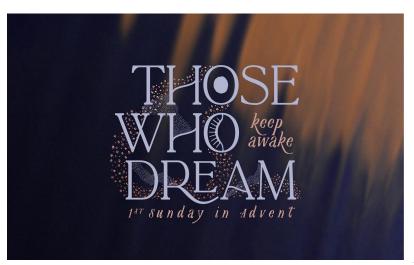
Edition 38



Worship and Prayer Resource Sunday, December 6th 2020

(or whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

858 Great Plain Avenue Needham, MA 02492 <u>www.fbcneedham.org</u>



Advent Worship 10am via Zoom FBC Needham/ FBC Newton

You are encouraged to join us for an Advent Worship collaboration with First Baptist Newton. Links to these church services will be provided via email and text message. If you would like to receive updates and links, please email <u>pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org</u>. We will be incorporating the Advent Devotional resources from sanctifiedart.org "Those Who Dream", in our Zoom worship and Worship at Home

Resources. Coloring pages from illustratedministry.com, will also be provided in each week's resource.

Lighting the Candle of Life

You may wish to light a candle or use the photo above as a focus for this time. ALL: We light the Candle of Life - a candle that represents community, spirit, and the fullness of all of life - birth and death and all the transitions in between and beyond.

Advent Candle Lighting - Week 2 / Peace¹

Light a candle in your home or in your heart. Adapt the following words for your use and circumstances. Though they are written for two voices, they can be read as one, or shared in reading with many.

Candle Lighting Liturgy | The Candle of Peace

- A: I dream of the first pitch of opening season.
- B: I dream of a laundry day, where each sock finds its mate.
- A: I dream of family home for the holidays.
- B: I dream of good books and homemade meals.
- A: I dream of sunset drives with the windows down.
- B: These are beautiful dreams, but I also have urgent dreams.
- A: I dream of conversations across party lines.
- B: I dream of more bridges and less walls.
- A: I dream of more laughter and less fear.
- B: I dream of more listening and less tears.
- A: But most of all, I dream of peace like a river.
- B: Today we light the candle of peace.

Light candle.

B: May it remind us that there is another way. Amen.

¹ Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



THE Second Sunday in Advent THOSE WHO DREAM... prepare the way (peace)

FOCAL SCRIPTURES Mark 1:1-8 | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

John the Baptist calls the crowds into the journey of repentance and transformation. Similarly, we are called to prepare the way for God's message of love and liberation to be shouted, heard, and received. Those who dream make way for righteousness and peace to kiss, for faithfulness to spring up from the ground (Ps. 85:10-11).

Song of Response Prepare Ye arr. Stephen Swartz Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "Prepare Ye", from Godspell, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0Uic7xfR9g.

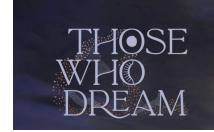
Prepare Ye, the way of the Lord (repeat many times)

Meditative Word

what does this word...



...spark for you?



POETRY

Written by Sarah Are

PRAYERS

The Second Week of Advent THOSE WHO DREAM... prepare the way (peace)

Prepare / Mark 1:1-8

My dad built me a changing table. For nine months, my mom watched her ankles swell and her belly grow. For nine months, my dad would come home from work, kiss her on her forehead— Pressing bangs to skin—and tell her she was beautiful. Then for nine months, he'd slip into the garage To build sawdust sand castles and a dresser out of dreams. I imagine she smiled, perched in that rocking chair. He was in his woodshop, preparing the way.

Eighteen years later I left for college. As I packed my bags, my mom baked blueberry muffins for the road—the smell of home. She wrapped them in foil and placed them in a cardboard box, Willing similar layers of protection to be wrapped around me, her little girl. She was preparing the way.

My aunts and uncles bought sweatshirts in my new school colors. My dad taught me how to change a tire. My mom gave me the earrings I'd been sneaking from her jewelry box for the last four years. I hid sticky-note love letters on the kitchen door for them to find when they returned home. We were quiet in the car. My brother cried. We were all preparing the way.

And through these moments, I have come to see, That preparation and love can be the same thing. For there is something about love that makes us want to prepare. There is something about love that compels us to Throw open the doors, Yell it from the rooftop, Set the table, Decorate the nursery, Leave love notes on the back door, Build the changing table, Trim the tree, Bake muffins for the road, And when it's time, If you must, Let go.

Preparation and love can be the same thing.

Prayers of the People

Enter into this time in song. If you don't know the tune, let the words be the doorway to your prayer.

Sung Prayer

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

BENZENHAFER arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

Hear my prayer, O Lord. Hear my prayer, O Lord. I am asking, hear my prayer, O Lord.

Prayerful Meditation

"...prayer and meditation can be thought of as the creation of a mental space in which the energies of dreaming and the concerns of waking life are invited to meet each other and to have a mutual, open-ended conversation."³

Enter into prayer trusting that God who walks beside you in your waking also accompanies you through your dreaming - keeping vigil, ever present.

We Hold in Prayer...

Many of this week's prayers are requests from members of our congregation in the past week. **If you have general or specific prayer requests - joys as well as concerns - to share** please contact Holly or Daryn to pass them along.

As a community of faith gathered in Spirit when we cannot be in person as we are accustomed, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer where we are, entrusting the Spirit's moving among us and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...

We give thanks for our sister church, **First Baptist Church in Newton**, and for our **worship collaboration this Advent season**. For all the ways our churches have partnered over the past few years, through youth endeavors, Vacation Bible

³ Kelly Bulkeley, *Transforming Dreams: Learning Spiritual Lessons from the Dreams You Never Forget* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000).

School, and now worship and choral Zoom offerings, we share in our gratitude ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow* ...



With Nancy and Pastor Daryn, we celebrate the goodness of our gathering Sunday morning via Zoom, and the presence of so many unexpected guests - for the presence of Rev. Gordon Swan and Edith, for Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil, for Daryn's North Carolina family - parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts, for Holly's children, Kristen and Greylyn, and all the folks that gathered together from various parts of the world, and from our two communities and the full breadth of them. For all of the joy and hope we experienced Sunday via Zoom, we give thanks ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

For the joy of being together in worship via Zoom, and held together by these Worship resources and Calls of Caring each week, we say Thank You! We are so grateful for one another and this community that shares the love of Christ across barriers of technology, barriers of distance, barriers of masks, barriers of time, barriers of disease --- God, yours has always been a love that transcends any wall or barricade, anything in its path --- for that love we are truly thankful, and we celebrate our church community for

exhibiting that so well each and every day ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

With Barbara and Bev we continue to **celebrate the worship resources each** week and the work of **our pastors**. "I read every word of the worship bulletin; it's my newspaper," Bev says. With Barbara we give thanks **for the coloring pages**. With Bev we celebrate the beautiful simplicity of the **candle lighting prayers** in this Advent series, and **acknowledge all the hard work** that goes into making the at-home resources possible ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

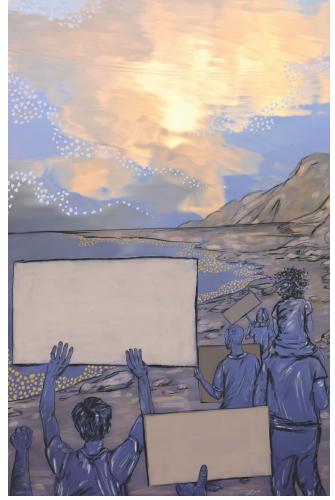
With Harry and Ernie we give thanks for the At-Home Advent Kits, and give thanks for the candles and the crafts - for the ornaments and the opportunity to take joy in celebrating this season of expectant hope ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

With **Anthony** we pray **for the continued health of everyone**, and **give thanks** that though Anthony was directly exposed to COVID-19 at work, he has had a **negative test result**. As Anthony continues to serve in the health field, we pray **for his continued protection and for that of Clif** ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

For all the **health care workers**, **doctors**, **nurses and attendants** who are working endless hours at risk of close contact with COVID-19, we pray **for their safety**, **for their resilience and for the energy they need** to make it through each shift ... Lord, *in your mercy*, *hear our prayer* ...

God help us to be mindful of what we can continue keeping folks safe and healthy around us. Give us the wisdom to distance and wear masks, to wash our hands and make good decisions about when we should stay home for the sake of everyone's well-being ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

With Clif, we pray for friends, **Eileen and Tom League**, who were **recently diagnosed with COVID-19**. We hold them in our hearts as they navigate this illness with added health complications and concerns. God, **we pray they will receive**



the treatment and tending they need to recover ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

With Pastor Holly we offer prayers of concern for Eda Jackson and Pat Tadlock, both still in COVID ICU in Jackson, MS. Eda has been ventilated this week and Pat is in her third week ventilated. Both have suffered significant damage to their lungs, and are living now with compromised vitals, and neurological deficits due to oxygen deprivation. For God's watchcare of them and their families and loved ones as they keep vigil ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

God, with Clif we pray for grace in our hearts when we become frustrated with the actions and seeming lack of concern and care others demonstrate when they move about the world without caution for this virus, and little concern for the ways it can infect not only themselves, but also those vulnerable around them. Help them to embrace an ethos of love, to embody the wisdom of care and compassion that leads to better decisions. Help us to hold everyone in this time with extra grace and compassion in our hearts. It is so hard; every decision feels heavier ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

With Andrew, we pray **for safe and cautious travels** to those who are going to be with their families in this holiday season ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

We remember all those in assisted living facilities. We pray for the folks at Wingate, for Barbara and Bruce and their families. Keep them safe and grant your peace and vigilant care to all in that facility and others throughout our community. We continue to remember Gloria and Jim Beal, and Marilyn Blake who are also in assisted living. We pray that folks continue to take precautions to keep residents and workers safe ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

God in this week of hope, along with Bev, Harry, Ernie and our entire community, we hope for safe and effective vaccines that are on the way, and for treatments that will bring healing to our world, whether they be for COVID-19, cancer, heart or liver disease, or other ailments that plague the people we love. We pray for better days to come ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

Loving and merciful God, we continue to hold John C. in our prayers as he and his medical team seek solutions to his most recent bout with illness. We pray for his comfort and healing, and especially remember JoAnn who is caring for him and their broader family - children and grandchildren, while holding the weight of the uncertainty and everyone's concern. God, grant respite, and glimmers of hope to JoAnn and John as we move through these days of Advent; may your light and love meet them in this journey ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ... We hold Lauri of FBC Newton in our prayers, whose mother was taken to the ER this week with very low blood pressure. Accompany them with your comforting Spirit, and grant them peace in this unsettling time ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

With Harry, Dorothy, John C., Ernie, Louise, and Trevor, we give thanks for all the caregivers in our lives - for the family that makes sure we have what we need and go to great lengths to keep us safe, for the fruits and vegetables delivered by the senior center, and the food of meals on wheels, and friends' offerings. God, for all of this we offer our gratitude and appreciation ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

With Harry we offer gratitude for Ernie Steeves, who received a positive report from his last visit to the doctor's - his cancer markers had gone down! Harry remembers that Ernie was one of the first to welcome him to First Baptist three years ago, and celebrates that hospitality of spirit. Harry also takes joy in Ernie's willingness to join him for line dancing (pre-COVID-19) and the fact that, according to Harry himself, Ernie has become the better dancer. With Harry we are grateful for friends that inspire us with their kindness, courage, and hidden talents, we give thanks! And we continue to pray for Ernie's health and celebrate with him in the good news when it comes our way ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...



We celebrate **the joy of the Christmas lights** that are going up around the neighborhood and at the church. We give thanks **for the small things that light up our hearts** in this difficult year ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

With Harry we celebrate the **neighbors we get to see outside** on these unseasonably warm days; it feels good to say hello and be seen and acknowledged by those around us ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

God, we offer prayers **for those living through emotional and psychological struggles**, addictions, depressions, and other maladies of the mind, body, spirit, and heart ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

With Andrew, we hold **the complexities relationships** of all kinds sometimes afford **... Lord**, **in your mercy**, **hear our prayer** ...

With Pastor Daryn and Clif we give thanks **for pad thai - for yummy food** that feeds our bodies and souls and brings us joy ... **praise God**, **from whom all blessings flow** ...

We celebrate **our animal companions** that meet and greet us with love and appreciation no matter how grumpy we are, and keep us from feeling quite so lonely and restless *... praise God, from*

whom all blessings flow ...

With Clif we celebrate **socially distant walks with friends** ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

We pray that **Pastor Daryn** and Liz's Boston terrier **Maxwell recover swiftly from their recent vaccinations** - flu for Pastor Daryn, and other canine maladies for Maxwell; both are doing well at present. We give thanks **for scientific breakthroughs that keep us healthy** ... **praise God, from whom all blessings flow** ...

We give thanks for **Clif Holbrook** and **Steven** - for all **the work they put into making sure the house and grounds are well tended** ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...



Our community holds **Pat Day's daughters, Carolyn and Susanne**, who are expecting little ones. **For their health, wellbeing and strength** in this time, we

pray, and we ask that you would **ease their worries** if there be any ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

We give thanks that there was **no severe damage from the windstorm** this past week in Needham or, more specifically, to our church *... praise God, from whom all blessings flow* ...

We celebrate that **Helen and Elaine Turner are both doing well** and in good spirits, that they are able to get out and about from time to time. With Helen's son, **John**, we celebrate the end of Helen's cancer treatments at present, and **pray for the health and wellbeing of Elaine and Helen**, and his family, and for their continued positive outlook on life ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

With Liz, we pray for her cousin, **Kim and for Kim's husband**, **Dan**. Dan is being evaluated to see if he qualifies as a candidate for stents in his lungs - a new form of treatment that can help with the struggles of COPD. While they are excited for this possibility, they also express concern over Dan's allergies to certain medications and complicated history with anaesthesia. The next phase of the trial period is just before Christmas. As they await that time and the results of these tests, **we hold them in our hearts, praying for their peace and for the wisdom** of their medical team ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

We continue to pray, along with Andrew, **for baby Carmen** as she navigates her first year of life with an **atrial septal defect**. For her care and the discernment **of her doctor's and mother** we pray ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

We hold Pastor Holly's cousin, Janice Sue Marcum, in our prayers as she grieves the death of her husband, George, who passed away over Thanksgiving weekend. God grant your presence be with Janice and with the Marcum family in this difficult time. May George's memory be a blessing and offer some peace for their hearts in this time of mourning ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

With Nancy, we hold her friend, **Mary** in prayer as she travels to Florida once again to be with her sister, **Carol** in the last stages of her illness. God, **grant them this time with one another as a blessing - may they bring comfort** to one another's hearts and **find moments of hope and peace** in the midst of this heartbreaking time ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ... We pray for **Peg**, of FBC Newton, **and her family as they care for her brother** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

Our church community celebrates with **Pastor Holly** who will **complete a Unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) this Sunday**. For this six month journey, we offer **our celebratory congratulations**, and acknowledge **all the hard work and dedication**, time, heart, compassion and deep attentiveness that Pastor Holly put into this experience. We give thanks **that so many on the other end of Holly's care were able to experience her gracious and discerning spirit**, **and her remarkable gift of presence and pastoral care**. Holly, we joyfully **lift up this accomplishment**, and **continue to give thanks** for the gift of you and your beautiful way in ministry to this world and to our community ... **praise God**, from **whom all blessings flow** ...

God, we ask your **mercy upon us** when the mistakes and misgivings of our minds, hearts and bodies lead to irrevocable consequences that cause others, and our world, more pain. **Have mercy on us** when we abuse our power and privilege,

when we misjudge, or when our biases and prejudices cloud our vision and corrupt our action. We pray for our divided communities, **unite us in your love and mark us with repentance and humility** so we can seek the change we need to heal. Again, help *all of us* seek and be ready for the **transformation** that needs to come for justice and peace to reign in the hearts and systems we create ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

We continue to offer prayers that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and and the tendencies toward discrimination and dehumanization in our world would be eradicated**. Give us the **strength to overcome** these sins ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

For the prayers of our hearts that you, Holy One, know even when words cannot hold them...*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Offering

During this time of offering, consider going right now to https://www.fbcneedham.org (Take Action) to complete your offering or continue to support the ongoing ministry of the church by writing your check to the church office and preparing it to mail to: First Baptist Church in Needham, 858 Great Plain Avenue, Needham MA 02492. Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check. Let this act be a spiritual practice woven in within your worship.

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

(Speak these words of benediction knowing that you are part of a loving community of faith. If you lit a candle at the beginning, you may wish to blow it out now.)

One: Our blessing to one another is that we are here for one another, that we are with one another, that we celebrate and remember one another along the journey. ALL: We extinguish the Candle of Life, but the Light continues to shine within us. As we pass the peace we carry the Light of the Candle of Life from this hour into this world and beyond, offering peace, hope and light wherever the journey leads.

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another in peace as we prepare for the journey ahead.

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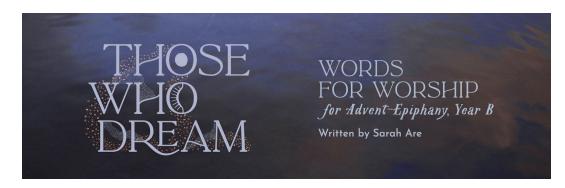


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Announcements

Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!

Our church office has re-opened for our Office Manager, Robin Bevilacqua. We are encouraging limited visits to the church building, and all who visit are required to mask, sign-in, and socially distance. If you need to speak with Robin, please call ahead if you can. Pastoral and other church staff are working from home. Office voicemail and email are being checked regularly. If you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.



Advent Worship 10am via Zoom FBC Needham/ FBC Newton

You are encouraged to join us for an Advent Worship collaboration with First Baptist Newton. Links to these church services will be provided via email and text message. If you would like to receive updates and links, please email pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org. We will be incorporating the Advent Devotional resources from sanctifiedart.org "Those Who Dream", in our Zoom worship and at home worship resources. Coloring pages from illustratedministry.com, will also be provided in each week's resource.

Worship Resource and Calls of Caring will continue!

We are aware how much the Worship Resource and Calls of Caring mean to our community, particularly to those of our community members unable to attend services in person or via Zoom. We will continue with the publication of these materials and with our calls each week, although we will make an effort not to call during the time of Zoom services on Sunday mornings. Blessings, all!



Pastor Daryn and sisters welcome you to The Welcome Table. Subscribe to receive this daily Advent devotional resource at <u>www.thewelcometable.co</u>, and learn more about this exciting new initiative.

> Creative Callings Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



Boston University School of Theology Center for Practical Theology

OUR MEETINGS FOR THIS YEAR HAVE ENDED. WE WILL PICK BACK UP ON ZOOM, JANUARY 10, 2021, with a congregational retreat to kick off year two of our Creative Callings process. The first community partner video of our 2021 process will be posted on that same day. Here's to next year! Reserve Thursdays at 6:30pm in 2021 for our congregational conversations for discernment via Zoom!

Thank you to all who have shown up curious, engaged the videos and video partners in meaningful dialogue, curated questions, and held possibility for our church in this process of discernment and dreaming.

If you have questions about Creative Callings, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, please contact Pastor Daryn, pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

Looking for Advent: A Photographic Invitation

The four weeks of Advent have traditional themes of **Hope, Peace, Joy,** and **Love**. This year, you are invited to carry each week's theme with you wherever you may be – in your home, going for a walk, driving past holiday lights, or even the pretty wreath on your own front door.

When you see something that represents the week's theme, take a photo of it and send it to Pastor Holly at pastorholly@fbcneedham.org.

We'll use the photos as visual inspirations of the season on our social media sites. Let this be a gentle practice of *Looking for Advent* each day, and see what you discover holds Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love all around you!

Photo Guidelines:

1. Photos MUST be taken by you (not taken by someone else or published elsewhere)

2. Focus on decorations, lights, nativities, or nature – we can't post pictures of people without their written permission OR of copyrighted material (ex. a photo of a picture in a book).

3. These are CANDID Photos – they don't have to be "professional" but they do need to be clear & identifiable 😄

4. Holly will edit or crop any photos as needed. Don't worry if it's off-center.

What to Send:

- 1. Your photo
- 2. 1-2 sentences why it represents the week's theme for you.
- **3.** Location and/or any story behind it the photo

Advent 1 – Hope – Sunday, November 29 – Friday, December 4

Advent 2 – Peace – Sunday, December 6 – Friday, December 11

Advent 3 – Joy – Sunday, December 13 – Friday, December 18

Advent 4 – Love – Sunday, December 20 – Wednesday, December 23

Coming in December! Physically Distanced Christmas Light Strolling

... be sure to check out the church lights!



As the holiday lights and decorations go up around their neighborhood, **Clif and Anthony** will be extending an invitation for folks to join them for their evening strolls with their new pup **PJ** to enjoy each other's company (safely distanced) and the beauty of the season's lights.

Watch for more information coming soon!

Newsletter

Check out our most recent issue of our Newsletter, *InSpire*. There you will find important information about worship, Creative Callings, stewardship and financial giving, as well as our upcoming capital campaign and building and organ restoration projects. There is a lot happening at FBC Needham this fall and I encourage you to actively participate in the life-giving ministry and discernment taking place in our community. To receive a copy, email <u>churchoffice@fbcneedham.org</u>.

Do You Need Washable Masks? Be Kind Needham Masks for Seniors is a local organization making washable fabric masks available to local senior residents *for free.* Your health and safety in the weeks and months ahead is paramount, and having reusable, washable masks aids sanitation, is environmentally friendly, and is cost-effective. If you or a senior you know need masks, please contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly.

Needham Community Council continues to provide necessary resources and food to individuals in need of their services. If you or someone you know are in need of reaching out to them or if you want to learn how you can best volunteer to help at this time, go to their website at: <u>http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org</u>.

Please note: They are accepting donations <u>by appointment only</u> at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.

Security Adjustments

Changing Member Page Password: email or call Pastor Daryn for the NEW password for our church membership page. Our Creative Callings password is the same as before. The membership directory has been taken down from the website for now. Please let Pastor Daryn know if you need to be in touch with someone in the community pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

Text and Photo Attributions:

Cover image: "Week Two: Candle of Peace," <u>http://www.holyangelsnj.org/advent-wreath.html</u>. Use with permission.

"Those Who Dream," <u>www.sanctifiedart.org</u> text and images:

Title cards for "Those Who Dream" devotional resources; Candle Lighting, Poetry, Scripture Text, by Sarah Are, Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org; Art contributions courtesy of sanctified art.org include "The Flower Fades", paper lace by Hannah Garrity; "The Beginning of the Good News", digital painting by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; "Prepare a World", digital drawing, by Lauren Wright Pittman. Use with permission.

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