

First Baptist Church in Needham
3rd Sunday of Advent

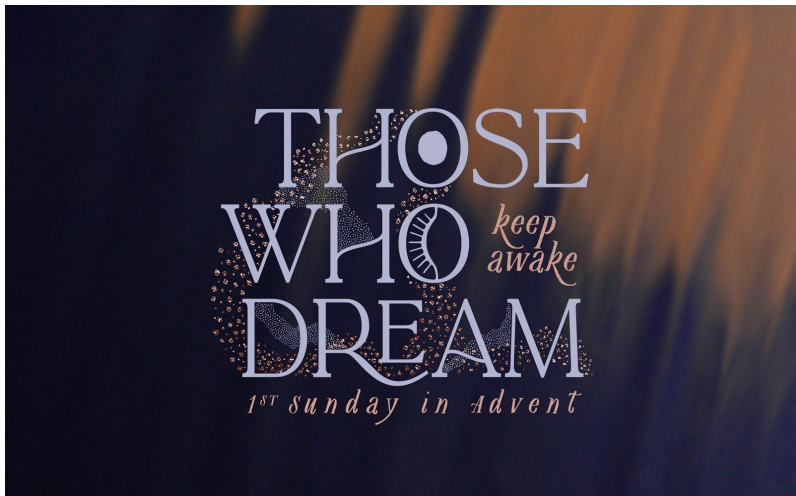
Edition 39



Worship and Prayer Resource
Sunday, December 13th
2020

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

858 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
www.fbcneedham.org



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 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 3 / Joy¹

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 Joy

A: I dream of dance parties in the kitchen.

B: I dream of laughter that is contagious.

A: I dream of birthday candles and another beautiful year.

B: I dream of family game nights and dinner parties with friends.

A: I dream of homemade Halloween costumes and homemade family recipes.

B: I dream of pillow forts, fireflies, and front porch swings.

A: I dream of every little thing that brings joy; and I know it comes from God.

B: So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder
that God's dream for this world involves the end of all tears.

A: God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows and is contagious.

B: So may this fire burn bright, and as it does, may we sing.

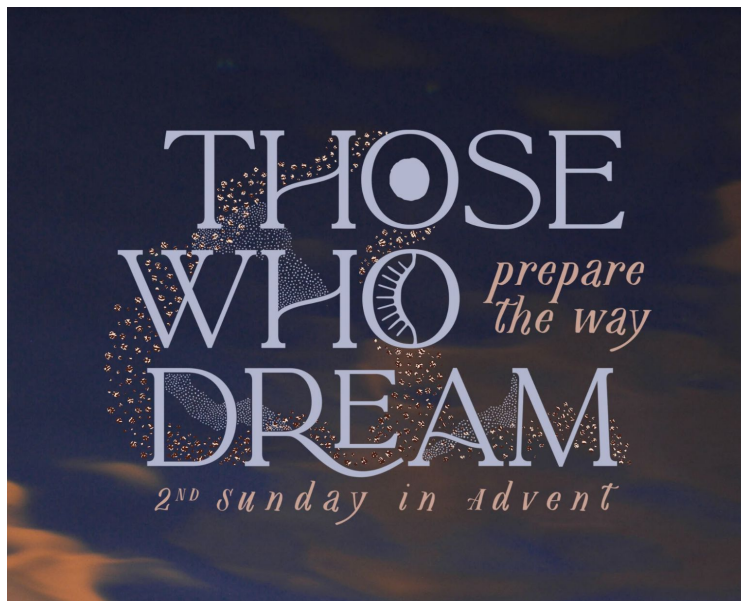
A: May we dance.

B: May we laugh.

A: May we hold onto the people we love.

B: May we sow joy in a hurting world, and may it be an act of holy resistance. Amen.

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



The Third Sunday in Advent

THOSE WHO DREAM... *sow joy (joy)*

FOCAL SCRIPTURES Luke 1:46-55 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Ps. 126

THEME CONNECTIONS

Ultimately, dreams sow joy, even if that joy doesn't immediately spring forth. Sowing seeds into the soil always feels risky and feeble—how can something so small become something so beautiful, so big, and so nourishing? Like Mary, we are called to tend and nurture the dreams God has woven into us.

Meditative Word

*what does this
word...*



...spark for you?

Song of Response Canticle of the Turning STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "Canticle of the Turning", by Advocate Virtual Choir,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7gsT83UNLY>.

Verse 1: My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn (*chorus*).

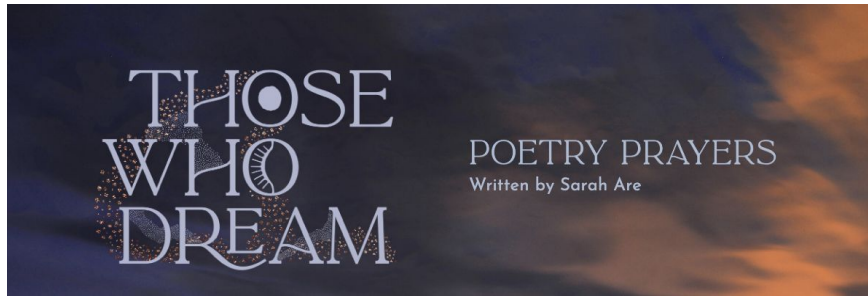
Verse 2: Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn (*chorus*).

Verse 3: From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from their throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn (*chorus*).

Verse 4: Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast; God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around (*chorus*).

Chorus: 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.





The Third Week of Advent
THOSE WHO DREAM... *sow joy (joy)*

Sow Joy / Luke 1:46-55

If I wanted to sow joy,
I wouldn't use words.

I would turn the music all the way up,
And push the table against the wall,
Until we had room to dance.

I would roll the windows down
And drive you out of town,
Until fresh air filled your lungs.

I would squeeze your hand
And look you in the eye,
So that you would know you are not alone.

I'd lay down the picnic blanket and we'd look at the stars,
So that nothing could separate you from God's great beauty.

I'd open my door, like Elizabeth did for Mary.
I'd tell you to stay as long as you'd like.
Make yourself at home. What's mine is yours.

And maybe we'd sing. And maybe we'd laugh.
And maybe it would be enough to be in the presence of God and each other.

If I wanted to sow joy, that's what I'd do.
So sing me your song. We've got dancing to get to.

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 ...*

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 Liz, we give thanks for the **thoughtfulness and intentionality of the Creative Callings process**, and for the opportunity for our church to enter into a new and creative way of being in ministry with our community ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

Liz offers prayers **for a day when our community can be together once again**, and she longs particularly for a time when she can once again laugh, drink coffee, and cut up materials for scrapbooking in the vestry with community and friends ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

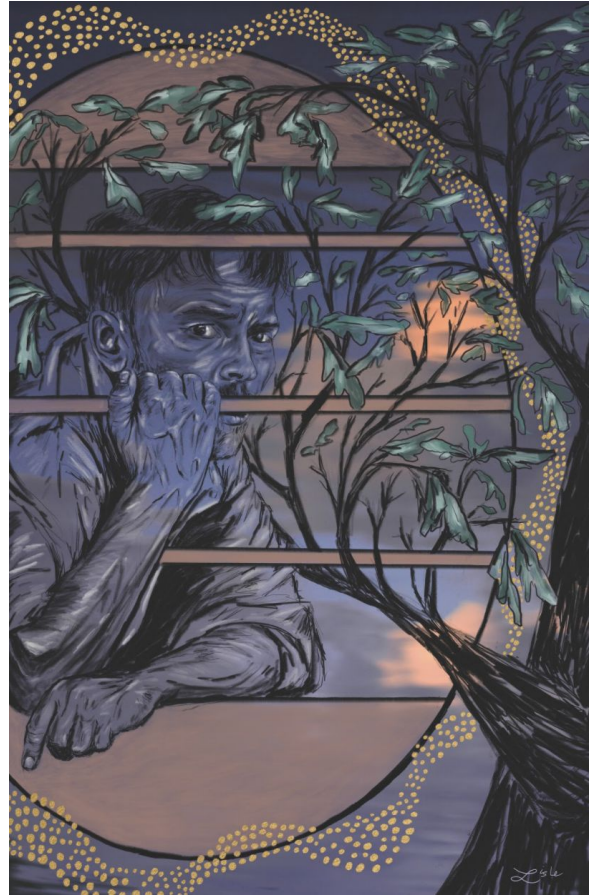
We continue to remember **all those in assisted living facilities**. We pray for the folks at **Wingate, for Barbara and Bruce and their families. Keep them safe and grant your peace and vigilant care** to all in that facility and others throughout our community. We continue to remember **Gloria and 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 ...**

We also pray **for our friends who are finding their time in assisted living to be a depressing reality - those struggling with low energy, isolation and despair**. For Dot Kinne's friends, **Davey Young and Meg Shannon**, may they receive the **encouragement and hope** they need to make it through each moment of this particularly difficult time. **May the prayers of our hearts find and uplift them**. God, **grant them peace and inspire their days** with new wonders and joys to sooth them ...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We especially remember **Marilyn Blake** this week whose living situation and ongoing health concerns leave her confined to her room at River Court Residences. She is suffering **loneliness and boredom, alongside other physical**

troubles. We pray for her and **remember her in our thoughts and hearts**, and **pray she is able to overcome this difficult situation**. Offer an opportunity for her each day to experience some joy and laughter; delight her heart ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We also remember **John C.** this week, whose **five week hospital stay has stretched him to the limit**. We **pray for his continued healing**, and for **guidance, wisdom and ingenuity for the medical staff** that are treating him. The time has been especially excruciating given the renewed restrictions that have kept even his wife, JoAnn, from visiting. Though John understands and commends the COVID-19 regulations, this has been a **difficult time of isolation**. God, **enliven John's spirits, and offer a new and life-giving surprises each day** as he waits for answers and an eventual home-going. **Keep his family - JoAnn and his children and grandchildren - in your constant care ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**



With Anne, we pray for **Bruce** who is to go in for **minor surgery within the next month ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Nancy, we continue to remember 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 ...*

With Harry, we give thanks **for the wonders of technology that connect us**, and celebrate that he was able to Zoom with friends and family from across the country in celebration of his **sister-in-law's 92nd birthday ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We give thanks that Harry has found a **pastime he is enjoying - writing his life's story and simultaneously his love story with Jean**. Harry is excited to share this with friends and family once it is completed, and has enjoyed the gift of

remembering through the years. He is looking forward to adding pictures, and to its possible publication, with which his granddaughter is planning to assist. **For the gifts of our stories and our shared story with the many who grace our lives with their love and presence ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

John C. celebrates that he and JoAnn were able to join in their annual Thanksgiving reunion. For their precious friends of over thirty years, for the friendships they have formed and maintained, and for the opportunity to be together once again, if only via Zoom, we give thanks and celebrate with John. We give thanks for the friendships that fill our lives with companionship and laughter, with accompanying joy ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...

With John C. we **admire and stand amazed at modern technological marvels and advances in medicine and medical technology. For the brilliance of our minds and efforts when we give our best to reimagining how the world can be - in small and grand ways - when we stretch our imaginations to invent, to remake, to creatively solve in efforts to bring healing to our world and one another ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

With Marty, we pray **blessings on President-elect Biden and his administration; may they bring peace and unity in the new year ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Bev, we pray **for a little more peace in our country and in our world ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, we give thanks **for the joys of this season that lift our spirits - for the lights and decorations we can enjoy, for the calls and cards from friends and family, for this community that holds us in prayer, for the small words and acts of kindness we see each day. With Marty, Clif, Ernie, and others, we give thanks for candles in the windows and lighted trees and decorations ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

With Ernie and Louise, we send **love to everyone in our community and pray that everyone is doing well ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Liz, give thanks **for the wisdom, creativity and dedication of all the scientists and developers of the vaccines that are now making their way into the public for distribution ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We pray for **Marty's niece and nephew, Lisa and Tim, who have struggled through a great deal of pain this year.** This time of year is particularly difficult for them as they grieve the unexpected and sudden death of their son only a few years ago. God, **allow their tears and heartache to accompany sweet memories that fill their hearts with warmth and healing.** We also pray for **physical relief and recovery for Lisa,** who developed a severe reaction to a topical lotion earlier this year that has not improved. As she now endures the pain and discomfort of blood clots, and the uncertainty associated with her condition, we pray for a **reprieve from her troubles, for rest and for peace for Lisa and Tim ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**



With Marty, we celebrate that her niece, **Linda,** is doing well, and **seems to be recovering** in the wake of her cancer diagnosis and treatment ... **praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

God, we give thanks that **Mark Holly and his family** are doing well. We continue to pray for **Maggie** whose **heart and lungs remain vulnerable** due to medications and treatments she received as a child. **Protect her** in the midst of this epidemic and **give her and her family strength** to make it through this time of added precautions ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif, we anticipate the winter solstice and the lengthening of days - **for more light, O Lord, we pray ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, give us **strength as a church to continue to be good stewards of our resources and our building.** Offer **wisdom and encourage us** as we seek to begin the project of restoring our front porch, and as we continue to tend other matters related to the upkeep of our facility. We especially give thanks for **Clif Holbrook** and **Robin Bevilacqua** who put their best feet forward in managing the day in and day out tasks related to the maintenance and preservation of our facility, and the care of the folks for whom our building is a home throughout the week. We give thanks also for **Cindy Sullivan, Andrew Thoresen and Ernie Steeves,** who greatly assist our church in the responsible stewarding of our financial gifts and

resources. **For these blessings we offer gratitude and pray ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Dorothy, we give **thanks that her family is healthy, and pray for the continued health and safety of all those we love ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We celebrate **Liz in her 60th year of life, and give thanks that her birthday was so well acknowledged and celebrated by friends and family.** We give thanks for the gift she is to our community ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We give thanks that **Ernie's completed a fourth Keytruda treatment on Monday and is feeling well! We celebrate his low cancer markers, and continue to pray that his CT scan on Dec 22nd will indicate a responsiveness to his treatments ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Bev, we give thanks that **Helen is in high spirits following cancer treatments, and that the nodes appear to be shrinking ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We celebrate with Bev that **Trevor is feeling better following the treatments for his thyroid complications ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Liz, we acknowledge **those who care for others.** We hold **her cousins, Jane and Steve,** in our prayers, who are **doing an incredible job taking care of the family and friends in their circles ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Peggy and Mark, we give **joy for the worship opportunities offered each week, and for the beautiful decorations on the church lawn and in the trees.** We also celebrate with them that though the "P" in our "PEACE" yard display was blown away by the storm, **someone thoughtfully returned it to its rightful place upon finding it. Peace is restored! ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

For all those who will not be with their families this year for Christmas due to added COVID-19 caution, we pray for their peace of mind and heart, and that some added gifts of tranquility and quiet will bring some new meaning to this year's holiday. We also pray for those kept from families and home this year due to health or illness of themselves or others in their circles of care and love - God grant healing in these places of heartache and sadness, and offer

another opportunity for renewed communion ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

Traveling mercies and added protections for all those traveling this holiday ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Bev, we offer **gratitude for the worship resource each week, for the “Those Who Dream” Advent devotional booklet, and for Advent candles** that are accompanying us throughout this season ... ***praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Clif, Bev, Dorothy, Anne, Anthony, John, Ernie, Liz and our whole congregation, we pray **for an end to COVID-19 and for the vaccines to be distributed in a timely manner.** We pray they will be **effective and safe,** and that all **side effects will be minimal ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We continue to pray 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, we pray for Pastor Daryn’s aunt, **Alisa Jung Powers,** a nurse who contracted COVID-19 in the hospital setting where she works, for her healing and for an ease to the pain and struggle she is feeling with every breath, we pray. God, for her husband, Doug, for his health and well being, and for his peace as he worries and cares for Aunt Li ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We continue to hold Clif’s friends, **Eileen and Tom League,** in our hearts and prayers, who were **recently diagnosed with COVID-19.** God, **we pray they will receive the treatment and tending they need** to recover, and that their additional health concerns will not be exacerbated by the Coronavirus ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***



With Pastor Holly we offer prayers of concern for **Eda Jackson** and **Pat Tadlock**, who remain in COVID ICU in Jackson, MS. For God's watchcare of them and their families and loved ones as they keep vigil ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Bev and Marty, Ernie and Dorothy, we pray **that everyone will do what we need to do to keep each other safe**. Give us the **wisdom and the compassion** to move about our world with caution and concern for one another, to **keep our distance and wear our masks** until it is safe to be together again ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Liz, we remember **the many lives that have been lost due to COVID-19**. We pause, and remember in this time of prayer that **they were each precious children of God**. Multiple days of this past week alone have numbered among those with the highest number of lives lost in our country's history. COVID-19 has claimed millions of lives worldwide. We hold **each family, and each individual grieving the loss of a loved one in our hearts**. We pray **that our prayers might bring some comfort and some awareness that they are not alone, that they, and those departed, are remembered and loved ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

Together we **mourn the death of Gretchen's friend, Mary Beth Condon**, who passed away from COVID-19 last Thursday morning. As they hold vigil through their grief, we pray that **God's presence would be especially felt and offer some peace in this difficult time to Gretchen and Mary Beth's family ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With **Pastor Holly, and her mother, Emily**, we **mourn the death** of one of Emily's closest childhood friends, **Wanda Flerl Ford**. Wanda was diagnosed with COVID-19 this past weekend, and was unable to overcome the disease. We pray for **Emily**, and for her other dear friend and **Wanda's sister, Linda**, who was also diagnosed with COVID-19 and is presently at home. **Healing for Linda, physically and emotionally, in the wake of this tragic loss of her sister**, and for **Wanda's granddaughter and son-in-law who have also tested positive**. God grant your comfort to Emily in this loss of her dear and oldest friend. God, accompany these who love Wanda in their grief. Do not allow them to feel the pain of this loss without the reprieve of your love and presence. Help them to know that you are with them and that Wanda is with you, held in your love in a new way. May Wanda's memory be eternally held in the hearts of those who love her, and comfort be with Linda and Emily and those who mourn ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

While we offer our prayers of comfort for this family, we also offer prayers once again **for wisdom for our world and for our communities - particularly our worshipping churches that continue to encourage large gatherings in person, or without public health precautions** - God, help them to see that **their gatherings are not feats of faithfulness and invincibility**, but rather help them understand that in person gatherings can too easily become a site of contagion. Faithfulness can be lived out just as well through our acts of love, mercy and compassion - through our acts of distancing to keep folks safe. **God help us to know the right thing to do to prevent these unnecessary and heartbreaking losses ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

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 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.*

RMMO - Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

Throughout December we are collecting one of our four denominational offerings of 2020, RMMO.

Envelopes are included in your worship resource.

You are invited to mail these contributions to the church.

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.

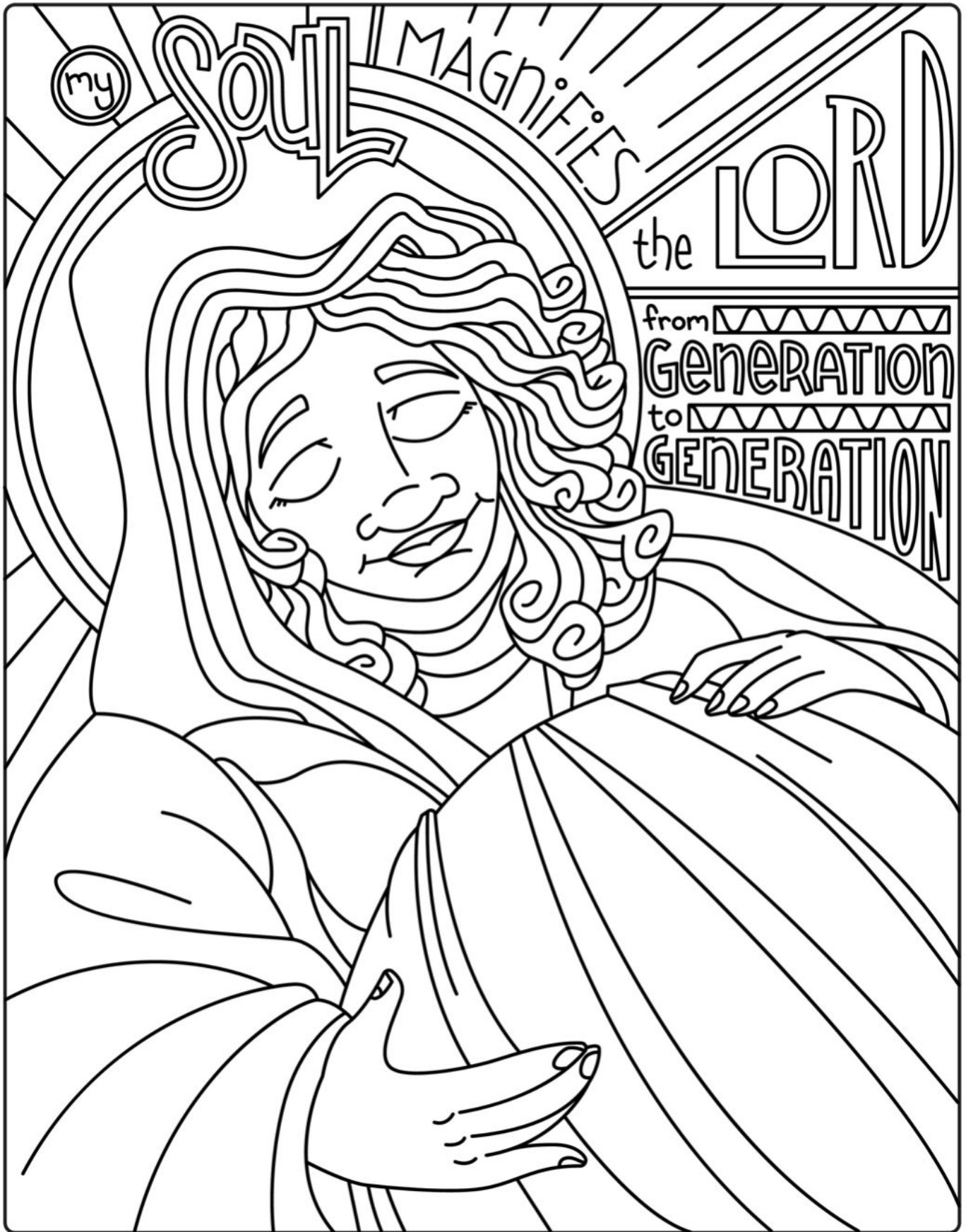
Passing of the Peace

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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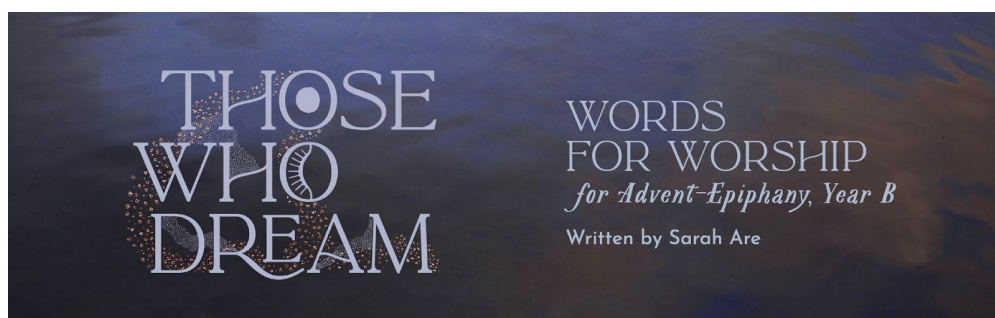


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Announcements

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
www.thewelcometable.co, and learn more
about this exciting new initiative.



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.

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.

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.

Meet at Clif and Anthony's @ **8:30pm on December 22 & 23**
(call or text to let them know you're coming or to
get directions: 781-962-4338)

Thursday December 17th Canned Food Drop-off at First Baptist Church in Needham!

Youth member, Katie J., is holding a canned food drive for Needham Community Council's food pantry. Bring canned food or non-perishable food items to the collection bin - outside our Warren Street entrance - **Thursday, December 17th 8am - 6:30 pm!**



Items will be donated toward the Food Justice Program of First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain and The Centre for Faith, Art, and Justice. This program offers nutritious meals and groceries to Boston's most vulnerable neighbors who remain isolated in their homes, providing hot meals to approximately 350 individuals three times a week and giving a substantial box of groceries to almost 300 households each weekend. The program currently has a waitlist of over 75 families. Any contributions you can make will be greatly appreciated.

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 churchoffice@fbcneedham.org.

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: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>.

Please note: They are accepting donations by appointment only at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed, as are contributions to their Amazon Gift list.

Text and Photo Attributions:

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“Those Who Dream,” www.sanctifiedart.org 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 sanctifiedart.org include “God of Justice”, digital painting by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; “Sow in Tears”, paper lace by Hannah Garrity; “Contours of Mary’s Dream”, digital painting, by Lauren Wright Pittman. Use with permission.

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