

THOSE
WHO
DREAM

WORDS
FOR WORSHIP
for Advent-Epiphany, Year B
Written by Sarah Are

First Baptist Church in Needham
4th Sunday of Advent

Edition 40

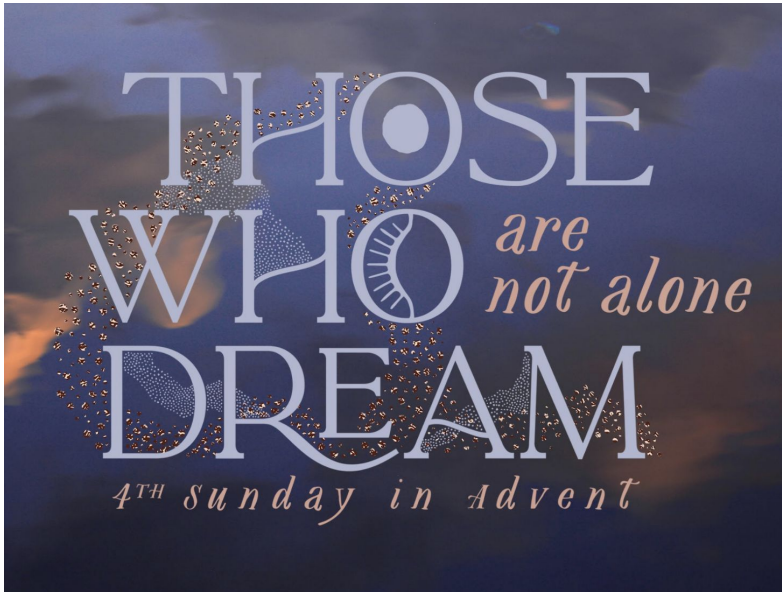


Worship and Prayer Resource
Sunday, December 20th
2020

(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 4 / Love ¹

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,

Candle Lighting Liturgy | The Candle of Love

A: I dream of music that makes my heart swell.

B: I dream of trees that take my breath away.

A: I dream of sunrises that wrap me in light.

B: I dream of family dinners that feel like home.

A: I dream of church services that give me hope.

B: I dream of love as the default.

A: So today, as we draw near to Christmas day, we light the candle of love.

Light candle.

B: May this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here and God is love.

A: We are not alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

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

or shared in reading with many.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

THOSE WHO DREAM... *are not alone* (love)

FOCAL SCRIPTURES Luke 1:26-45 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

THEME CONNECTIONS

This week, we recognize what preceded Mary's song of praise: news that was disorienting and bewildering, possibly threatening her life. Together, Mary and Elizabeth find courage and comfort in spite of their unusual circumstances. We, too, are called to carry, support, and encourage one another's dreams.

Song of Response

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "O Come, All Ye Faithful", by King's College Choir, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRq8eywc57I>. This recording may have additional verses; it is the Sir David Wilcox arrangement. The verses listed below are from the Worship and Rejoice hymnal.

Verse 1: O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, born the King of angels (*refrain*)

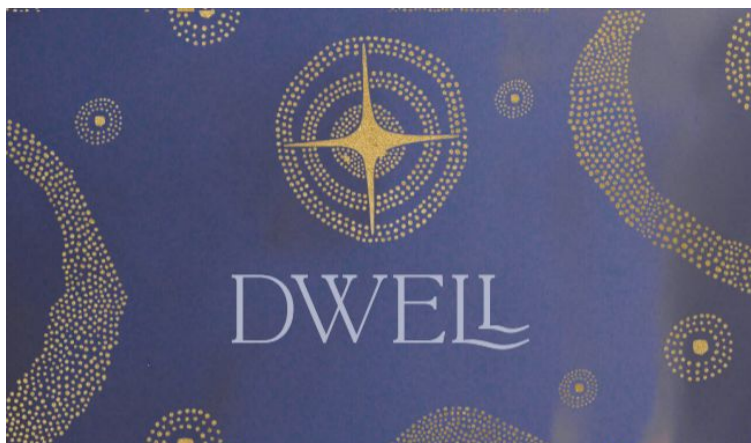
Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Verse 2: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; Glory to God, all glory in the highest (*refrain*)

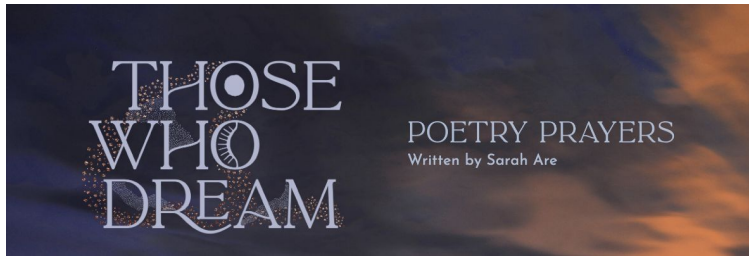
Verse 3: Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing (*refrain*)

Meditative Word

what does this
Word ...



...spark for you?



The Fourth Week of Advent
THOSE WHO DREAM... *are not alone (love)*

Not Alone / Luke 1:26-45

He never said to me, "I feel so alone,"
But I could tell every time we talked on the phone.
For you can hear loneliness move through the line.
It sounds like quiet and feels like tired.

But I never brought it up.
I pretended we were fine,
Passing stories like chess pieces
Until he'd resign.

And as I look back, if I could do it again,
I'd get on a plane and say to him—
You are made from nothing but love,
Inside and out, you are more than enough.
And if I could build you a home out of beautiful things,
I'd write all day and sing and pray.
But I cannot build your home,
Or make you love your own.

All I can do,
Is open my door and turn on the light,
So if you walk by you might stop inside.
And if you did, there you would find
The light is on.
The table is set.
The music is loud.
The bed is soft.
The food is warm.
What's mine is yours.

For no amount of space or time,
Or grief or doubt,
Or pain can subside
The fact that I am by your side.
Love and I will always abide.

I learned that from God.
I learned that from you.
Love doesn't go away.
I'm here to stay.
So like Mary and Elizabeth,
This door is open.

You didn't have to say you were lonely.
I could hear it in your voice.

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 ...*



We give thanks that our church is moving forward with the **restoration of our front porch,** and celebrate the **hiring of a project manager ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

With Liz, we pray for **protection during the winter storm ahead,** for all those who do not have a warm home to retreat to, and for whom the winter weather will exacerbate struggles, we pray ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

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 pray for **Marilyn,** for the health and **recovery of her lungs,** and for **God's**

peace to accompany her through this difficult time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, we pray for **John C.** as he awaits answers to health complications. While he patiently longs for a **resolution to his struggles**, and **reunion with loved ones**, we journey with him in prayer ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We mourn with **Harry Chin** this week, as he grieves this first Christmas without Jean. **We honor the grace and goodness with which Harry has navigated this profound time of loss**, and ask that you continue to **strengthen Harry toward a peace that passes all our understanding...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*



God, we also accompany **Harry** in mourning **the death of his sister, Jane**, who passed away this week at age 95, and the recent loss of his **longtime best friend, David McAvinn**, who also died this week at the age of 91. We also grieve the passing of **one of Jean's good college friends, who died within this same week**. These have been difficult days for Harry. **Help him to feel the love of this community that is surrounding him; may it help sustain him and give him comfort ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We hold **Marty Fassett** in prayer who **has lost three of her closest friends this year, and is missing them terribly**. God, **help us to be good community to those grieving in our midst and to find creative ways to reach out and let them know we care**. God, may the love of our community **offer Marty a little peace in the midst of heartache ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We tenderly hold in prayer **all those who are apart from the ones they love during this holiday season** - for those isolated in assisted living and hospitals, for those whose dearest spouses, parents, siblings, friends and loved ones have departed this earth, and for all who are unable to travel this Christmas - for all those longing for love and company, God, we ask that you would **shine a bit of extra light into their lives, add a little extra sign of your love and joy this**

Christmas, and brighten their days even as they grieve and move through life a moment at a time. May our love and prayers remind them they are not alone. As we pray and hold them in our hearts we ask that you, God, would make your presence and peace known to them as well, and that perhaps something of those they are missing will find them, and envelop them in a love eternal and transcending ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...



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

Pray for the **300+ high school boys kidnapped by Boko Haram from their school in northern Nigeria. For their safekeeping and safe return to their parents. For the anguish and fear of their families and communities. For the outrage at the continual traumatization of children by violence and hate ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

Concern for the **ecological disaster occurring on or near South Georgia Island in the South Atlantic Ocean. An iceberg the size of Delaware is**

within 50 km of hitting and lodging into the island. Doing so will threaten or destroy the marine life and food chain for millions of sea animals, coral, plankton, and sea floor plants. **For the life most vulnerable to climate change and the resulting devastation, we pray your protection and watchcare ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**



We give thanks for the **creative ingenuity around our world and within our community** that allows connection with people when we cannot be together in person ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Barbara, we give **thanks for the worship resources**, and for **outlets for creativity and colorful expression**. For the **coloring pages**, we give thanks ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

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 ...*

We celebrate our staff at First Baptist!

With Marty, John, Nancy, Harry, and others in our community, we celebrate the work and witness of **Pastor Daryn** and **Pastor Holly**. Our community gives thanks for the creativity, the worship resources, the outdoor worship, the Zoom leadership, the Creative Callings facilitation, the pastoral calls and visits, and always being there when needed. For the grant funding sought and grants written and programs implemented, for the extra attention to the needs of our community in this particular time of pandemic, quarantine and isolation, and for the difficult decision making that accompanied it. For the wisdom with which they have led and implemented - with the collaboration and facilitation of beautiful church members and staff - policies and procedures that have kept everyone safe. We give thanks! ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

In addition to the pastors, we offer gratitude for **Robin** and **Cindy** who have gone above and beyond to keep track of PPP loan documents, COVID-19 protocol, new printer logistics, weekly mailings and emails, communication with tenants and the payroll company, leases, rent, budgets --- you name it, they're on it. **For this dream team at First Baptist**, we say thanks be to God, and ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

For our leadership - our Admin team - for Andrew and Ernie who have both kept up with financial obligations of our institution, and for Andrew who has faithfully served as Moderator this year, as well as assuming the duties of treasurer in Ernie's stead. For Clif who keeps track of all things related to the building and grounds - ensuring the stewardship of our facility and resources, and for Liz who reminds us that mission is always important to the life of our faith well-lived. For Nancy who has served as church clerk - recording minutes, and thoughtfully contributing to discernment in myriad matters - **For all these who have served us so well in the midst of this strange and difficult year with**

**grace, courage, conviction and faithfulness, we offer our sincere gratitude ...
*praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We continue to celebrate Ernie's improving spirits, and **pray that his CT scan on Dec 22nd will indicate a responsiveness to his treatments ...
*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 ...***

We pray for Nancy's sister in law, Kathy, and for Kathy's mother, Mary Ann, who is undergoing tests related to cancer. We ask **that God's peace would accompany Mary Ann and Kathy as they sit in the uncertainty of this time ...
*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Andrew, we offer **gratitude for the little things in each day that make us happy** - little moments of success, getting things done, putting up the Christmas tree, Christmas cards and family heirlooms, wreaths on doors and LED lights that offer a diversity of shining expression - even fading from white to colored lights and back again! **For all of these and those yet to be ...
*praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***



We celebrate the long awaited vaccines for COVID-19 that have begun to be administered in the United States! We give a joyous shout of celebration for all those that worked so diligently to ensure its development, safety and efficacy. We pray, along with Katie J., that these vaccines will be distributed safely, efficiently and equitably ... ***praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

Even as we celebrate the arrival of the vaccines, we recognize that this is not yet over. Help us to continue in our own diligence, in distancing and mask wearing, hand washing and other efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and keep one

another as healthy as possible, out of our love and compassion for one another ...
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

We continue to 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**. 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 ...*

Run to Remember (an organization in Boston that annually honors police, fire fighters and first responders who have died) sent an email acknowledging **COVID-19 as the leading cause of death for officers in 2020**. As we remember those who have died, we hold in our hearts **our first responder community, including police officers, fire and rescue, emergency response, and medical staff, and all those who have died in these communities or lost friends and loved ones this year ...** *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 continue to pray for the family of **Wanda Flerl Ford**, who passed away last week, and now also for the family of **Patricia Tadlock**, who we had held in prayer through her battle with COVID-19. We pray **for these families as they mourn the devastating loss of their dear friends and family to COVID-19 ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to pray for **Eda Jackson** who is in week 4 in ICU on a ventilator, and now also dialysis and antibiotics for infection. **God, make your presence known to her and her family, surround them with your compassionate love ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We also pray for **Darren Dickens**, a pastor in Mississippi in his 40s, who was **admitted with COVID and pneumonia this week**. Though he was informed he needs to be in ICU, there are no ICU beds available in the state. He's being treated on a "regular" floor because the hospital is at capacity ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, we pray for the hospitals and medical centers across the country that are having to turn away people in need of care because there is literally “no room in the inn” due to the COVID surges. For small rural and regional hospitals that are not equipped or intended for this level of urgent and critical care. For medical staff stretched to their absolute limits and ones who succumb to COVID. For state health workers who have to make the call to publicly announce that people should not come to hospital “if they are having a heart attack” because there is no room to treat them. For health care workers, like Pastor Daryn’s Aunt Li’, who are called back in to work before they are fully recovered from COVID-19 themselves to help with staffing shortages ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God help us to know the right thing to do to prevent these unnecessary and heartbreaking risks and 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 ...*

With Louise, we pray **for the family and friends of our community** - we pray that **everyone has a safe and blessed Christmas**, encircled in the warmth of love and hope of God and this community, and sprinkled with joy and peace, and moments of connection with

family and friends near and far. **May it be a Christmas filled with the light and promise of Christ's birth:** the babe born in a manger of hay cries out that **even into the bleakest of midwinter scenarios shines a promise of possibility to reimagine our world, shines an opportunity to offer into it a love that transcends and dispels all manner of death, destruction, and shadow ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

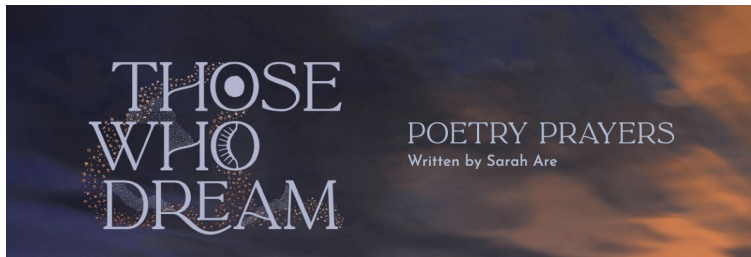


For the prayers of our hearts that you, Holy One, know even when words cannot hold them...*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*

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.



A poem for Christmas Eve⁴

Christmas Eve
this night, we are THOSE WHO DREAM

To Carry a Dream / Luke 2:1-20

To carry a dream
Is to walk at night,
Or to walk by light,
But with a pebble in your shoe.

To carry a dream is to
Wake at night
To wake and blink twice,
In case you see something new.

To carry a dream
Is to plant trees in old age,
To be a part of a church,
That is human and frayed.

To carry a dream is foolish and wild.
It's the faith of a child,
Wishing on stars.

But to carry a dream is also hopeful and wise,
The faith of our elders,
Saying God will provide.

So may we walk
Until we see the light.
May the pebble in our shoe
Remind us why we fight.
May they say
We are foolish and unwise,
And may we continue to dream;
May hope keep us alive.

⁴ Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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.

Hymns under copyright are used by permission under CCLI # 763542.



*We celebrate the birth of
Jesus, Emmanuel, "God With
Us" - Divine Love in and for
our world, incarnate.*

Hope

Peace

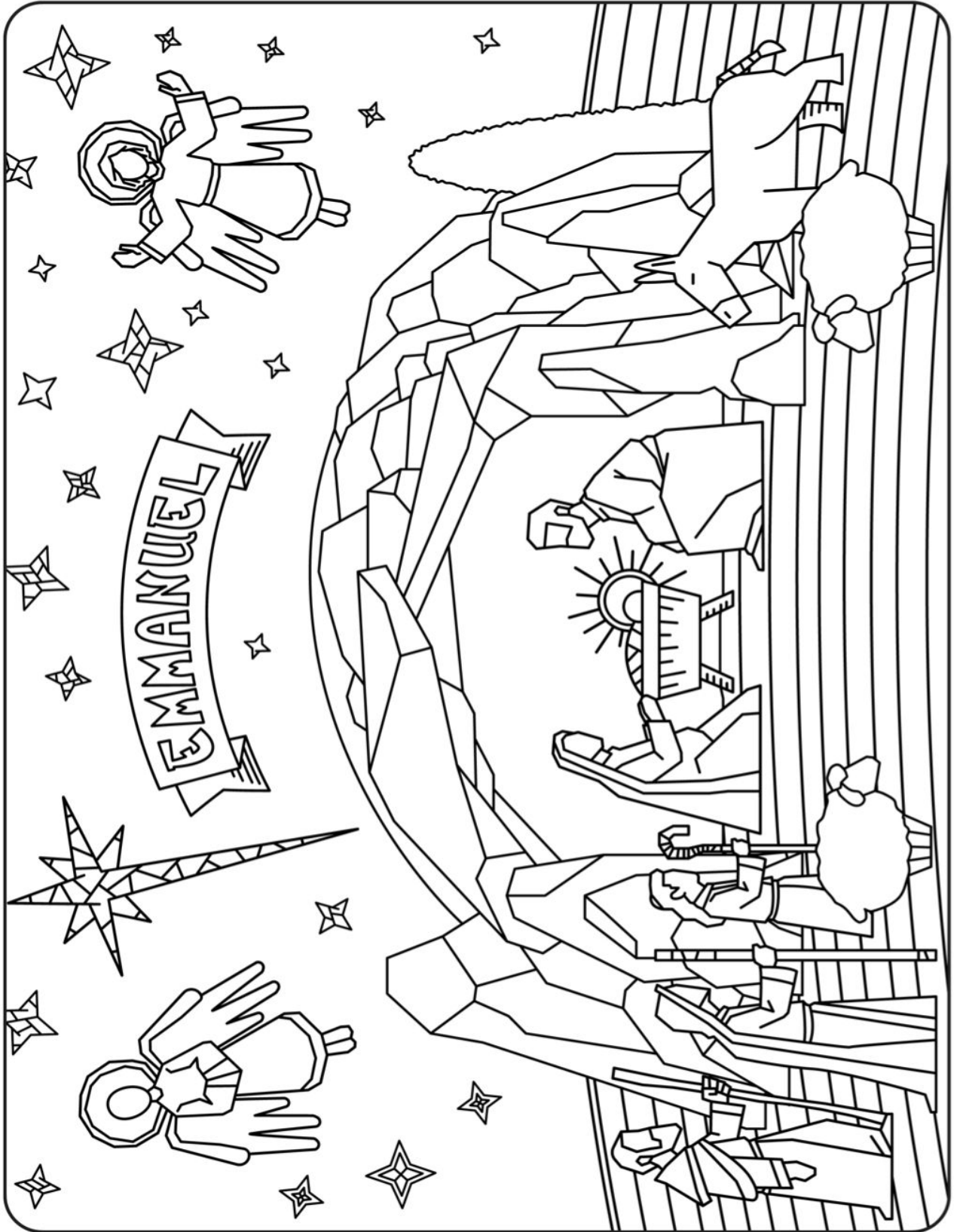
Joy

Love

& Light

Christmas Blessings to all!

Emmanuel means, *God With Us*. You are not alone!

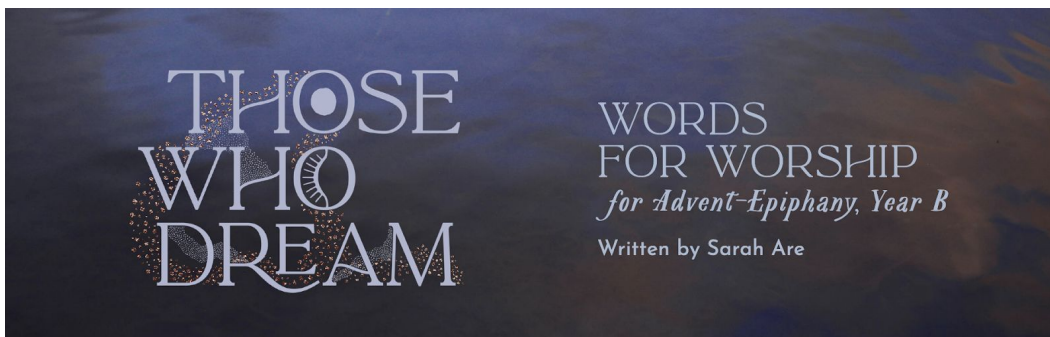


© 2020 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved. illustratedministry.com

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!

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)

Zoom to the Manger

Scripture, Carols & Prayer

Sunday, December 20th 6:30pm

(The Zoom link is on our website member page &
will be emailed and texted to the community)



Merry Christmas! Christ is Born!



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.

Dec 27th and following Have a Blessed Christmas Holiday!

Worship Resources and Calls of Caring will be provided each week. You are encouraged to make use of the worship resources we provide, and to find other meaningful opportunities for worship and reflection, Zoom services, or other spiritually enriching means of communing with God and community during this time of social distancing.



Rejoice in the birth of Christ! Live into the Love of Jesus! Be the light of Christ in the world!



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.

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.

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 Four: Candle of Love,” <http://www.holyangelsnj.org/advent-wreath.html>. Use with permission.

“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 “A Heron’s Wisdom”, digital drawing, by Lauren Wright Pittman; “A Dream Confirmed”, digital painting by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; “Love Incarnate”, paper lace by Hannah Garrity. Use with permission.

Other images: Christmas Coloring_Vol 2, Coloring Page, from www.illustratedministry.com; “Advent Altar 2020” photo courtesy of Daryn Stylianopoulos (2020); “Ornament Coloring” photo courtesy of Stylianopoulos (2020); “Shepherd Visit - Altar 2020” photo courtesy of Stylianopoulos (2020); “Yankee Swap” photo courtesy of Stylianopoulos (2019); “Greeting the Holy Family” photo courtesy of Stylianopoulos (2020); “Christmas Pastors” photo courtesy of Stylianopoulos (2019); “Chapel Blue Christmas Altar” photo courtesy of Stylianopoulos (2019); “Christ Candle” photo courtesy of Stylianopoulos (2019); (The Welcome Table Advent image, courtesy of The Welcome Table (www.thewelcometable.co); Christmas Lights, courtesy of Getty images; Nativity, courtesy of vectorstock.com. Use with permission.