

2020 Advent Devotional

Those Who Dream

Thank you for your interest in writing a devotional for this year's Advent Devotional.

This year's theme is from A Sanctified Art, LLC: "Those Who Dream."

From A Sanctified Art:

In our study of this season's lectionary scriptures, the opening lines from Psalm 126 jumped off the page "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.

1st week of Advent: Those who dream. . . keep awake (hope)

Mark 13: 24-37, Isaiah 64: 1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Those who dream do not fall asleep to the realities of the world. God prompts us to pay attention to where God's dreams for change and new life are emerging. In Advent, we remember that God's ultimate dream is to be intimately connected to us—to come down and dwell among us. As we keep awake, we join Isaiah and the psalmist in pleading for restoration and for God to draw near.

2nd week of Advent: Those who dream. . . prepare the way (peace)

Mark 1: 1-8, Isaiah 40: 1—11, Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

John the Baptist called 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.

3rd week of Advent: Those who dream. . . sow joy (joy)

Luke 1: 46-55, Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126

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.

4th week of Advent: Those who dream. . . are not alone (love)

Luke 1: 26-45, 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16, Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

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.

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Writing Your Devotional

1. Call Brooke at 386-445-4757 or email her brookeerintucker@gmail.com to let her know that you are interested in writing a devotional.
2. Choose a scripture from one listed under the sub-themes of hope, peace, joy or love or choose any scripture you like!
3. Pray and meditate over the scripture that you select.
4. Write a brief (250-300 word) message of inspiration based on one of the sub-themes (hope, peace, joy or love). Your reflection may include personal stories, hymns, lyrics, a song, or a poem. Remember to give credit to any source you use as a reference.
5. Give a title to your devotion, end with a brief prayer, and finish with your name.
6. Submit your devotional by email to Brooke Tucker brookeerintucker@gmail.com no later than November 1st. If you don't have email, please type or handwrite and drop off at the church office.
7. Feel free to contact Brooke with any questions 445-4757!

Thank you for your participation!!

Trinity Christian Education Committee wants to thank Shelley Wheeler for helping edit and publish this year's devotional for us again!