

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The First Sunday of Advent - Hope
November 29, 2020

Music streamed in today's service

Prelude Wacht Auf, Ruft Uns die Stimme, JS Bach
Awake, Awake, NCH 107

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, PH 103

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night, NCH 103

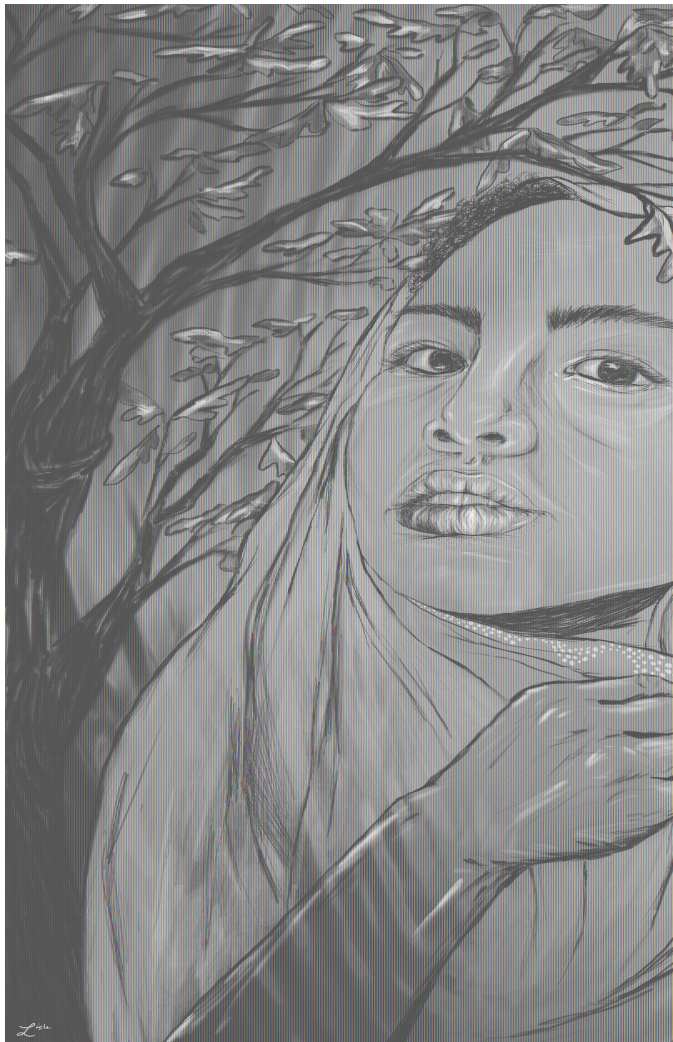
Offertory

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, PH104

Thou Long Expected Jesus, Franklin Ritter

Today's service will be recorded.

*Image: "Can't Keep Silent,"
Lisle Gwinn Garrity, A Sanctified Art*



THOSE
WHO *keep
awake*
DREAM

1ST Sunday in Advent

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
November 29, 2020
The First Sunday of Advent

Prelude	Prelude Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns die Stimme	JS Bach
Welcome and Announcements		Sarah Fuller
Call to Worship		Steve Van Evera

Wherever you are gathered, join us in the Call to Worship:

One: The power of dreams lies in waking up. For when we close our eyes,

All: We can see a better world.

One: When we close our eyes,

All: We can dream a better dream.

One: But when we open our eyes,

All: We begin the work of faith.

One: The power of worship is the same. When we enter this space,

All: We can see a better world.

One: When we enter this space,

All: We dream a better dream.

One: But when we leave this space,

All: We begin the work of faith.

One: So come in. Dream your dream.

All: Find hope here.

One: For in an hour,

All: We will begin the work of faith.

One: Let it be so.

Opening Hymn Awake, Awake NCH 107 (vs 1&2)

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5 *Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993*

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.

1 Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 2 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heav - en - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - them's roll to

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice.

- 1 Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing. Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness, the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.

Advent Candle Lighting -- The Zorn Family and Juan and Marjorie Loya

A: I dream of sunflower fields.

B: I dream of key lime pie with a mile-high meringue.

A: I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.

B: I dream of snow days.

A: I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

B: I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.

A: I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.

B: I dream of schools with enough money to teach.

A: I dream of parents with enough money to feed.

B: I dream to keep awake, because if we don't dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.

A: So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.

B: May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

A: May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus,
 Born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us,
 Let us find our rest in thee.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

103

STUTT GART 8.7.8.7.

*Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.**Melody attr. to Christian F. Will, 1660-1716**"Psalmodia Sacra," Gotha, 1715*

1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, Born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
 Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, Joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
 Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
 By thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to thy glo-ri-ous throne. A-men.

ADVENT

Prayer of Illumination

O Great Dreamer,

You dreamed up the stars in the sky.

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

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

You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen and the pure magic that is a six-foot-tall sunflower.

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

a dream of hope and justice,

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

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

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

and dream what you dream.

Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

24 ‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Children’s Message

Sarah Fuller

Closing Hymn **Watcher, Tell Us of the Night NCH 103**

103

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

*Isa. 21:11-12**John Bowring, 1825; alt.*

1 Watcher, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watcher, does its beautiful ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel!

1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.
3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

2 Watcher, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watcher, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Trav-eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry-beam-ing star!
Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

3 Watcher, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Watch-er, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
Watch-er, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Watch-er, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el!
Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!
Trav-eler, I re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

Sermon

Rev. Reebee Girash

Passing the Peace

Sarah Fuller

Prayers of the People

Rev. Reebee Girash

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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God of hope and wonder,
even surrounded by confusion and trouble
we look for you.

Take these gifts and use
them for acts of justice, peace, mercy, and hope.

Receive also the gifts of our time and our
actions that are just as precious to you as silver and gold. Amen.

Closing Hymn Comfort, Comfort Ye My People PH 104

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, And her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warking cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken. Amen.

104

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Based on Isaiah 40:1-8
Johann Olearius, 1611-1684
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
"Genevan Psalter," 1551

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth In the des - ert far and near,
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er pla - ces plain;

Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourning 'neath their sor - rows' load.
Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

Benediction

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

Thou Long Expected Jesus

Franklin Ritter

Source Notes: The prayer of Dedication is by Laura Hodges. All the other prayers today are by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org and are part of Sanctified Art's Advent and Christmas 2020 materials. The artwork used in the bulletin is from the same package.

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awake*
DREAM
1ST sunday in Advent