

Covenant United Methodist Church

www.covenant-umc.org

**20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
(301) 926-8920**

**December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent
Virtual and Indoor Worship Bulletin**



Those Who Dream

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Those Who Dream

The Many

“Those Who Dream” song written and recorded by The Many | Art by Lauren Wright Pittman, Hannah Garrity, & Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Video by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Call to Worship

John the Baptist said, “Prepare the way.”

So, family of faith, here within these walls on Pleasant Ridge and within the walls of our homes, how do we prepare our *minds* for worship?

We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts.

We make space for God to *speak*. We open our ears, prepared to listen.

How do we prepare our *hearts* for worship?

We open our hearts to all our emotions knowing that we feel what we feel.

We open ourselves to be moved by what Spirit is saying through song and word.

How do we prepare our *souls* for worship?

We trust the Spirit in the air telling Christians everywhere: Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in the world.

“Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

Opening Hymn

There’s a Spirit in the Air
Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

Kayla Johnson and Jenn Simpson

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

Matthew 1: 1-8, Psalm 85:8-13

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Creation Will Be at Peace

J. Paul Williams & Anna Laura Page

Quartet: Anita Stonebraker, Nancy Wilcox, Ron Davison, Dave Post

Piano: Kathy Herman

Sermon

Preparing . . . to be Spirit Led

Rev Judy Thomas

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Prayers for the People

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness,

Saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

We believe voices continue to cry out in "wildernesses" of many different kinds.

And so we "live tomorrow's world today."

We roll up our sleeves,

We work for justice for all.

We plant trees for children.

We choose hope.

We sing silently, but with joy, trusting in safer days to come.

We live generously, sharing our resources along with our love.

We gather at the Table to share and be fed by Christ.

We do all these things because we believe God loves us, is present with us, and has the perfect dream for us.

We prepare and act for this and the next beautiful day.

May it be so.

Amen.

"Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."

Offering

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we wish that peace was as simple as something we could buy.

**We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service,
or downloaded in an app.**

We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best.

However, we have found that peace is a work that involves day to day, everyday, decisions and commitment, over and over again, when we're blue, discouraged and at our best.

And like those who flocked to John, knowing that confession and repentance were needed, we come to your table, looking for the Bread of Life that leads to peace.

May it nourish and strengthen us for this Advent journey and the days to follow.

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven and blessed.

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven and blessed.

May you know peace.

And also you.

"Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Life up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and sustainer.

You established your people to be a light for the nations, and called us to walk in your path and follow your ways.

You made all creatures to live in peace and safety, and sent Jesus as Good Shepherd to guide us in the ways that make for peace.

When we turned away from you, you remained faithful.

Therefore we praise you and join with the voices of heaven singing an unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of you glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.
Baptized by John, Jesus came to reveal the good news:
The sick are healed, strangers are welcomed, enemies are loved, the poor have hope,
all are forgiven.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this
bread and this cup,
We remember the night Jesus gave himself up for us,
How taking bread, he gave thanks to you, and broke it saying:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.
And when the supper was over, he took the cup,
Gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of blessing of the new covenant made for
you and for many.
Drink this in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us gathered here, and in our homes, on these gifts of bread
and wine, both here and at home.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ, having the mind of Christ
so that we might be one with each other and one in ministry to all the world.
Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty
God, now and forever.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught his disciples to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after receiving

God of love and power, we give you thank for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing
Chancel Choir

Benediction