

Nov. 30, 2020

Dear Church,

The Season of Advent is upon us and our theme for 2020 is “Those Who Dream.” Based upon the opening verses of Psalm 126 “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream”, this theme invites us to consider God’s dream and the way it is showing up in the world in these days. Children’s Advent projects and Advent devotional material for adults have been mailed. This week begins the series of mid-week worship opportunities on Zoom, where contemplative worship can be woven into the fabric of the tumult and disorientation of these days. Later in Advent we will offer a “The Longest Night” worship experience on Zoom where we will intentionally make space for lament and grief . Each Sunday in Zoom worship we will look at what it means to be “those who dream.”

These are tough times for many and the reminder that we can dream with God’s dream is a timely message. The writers, artists and scholars who created the devotional resource are a diverse group, intentionally pushing beyond the white normative images and language often associated with Advent. This is fitting as we continue the work for racial justice that we began last Advent and hopefully will help us build some additional ways to imagine and dream.

Though we are not able to meet in person as a church in these days, it is my hope that worshipping, praying, reading, studying, journaling and dreaming together, while apart, will draw us together in rich ways. We will carry this theme through Christmas and into Epiphany as we observe those Holy Days with limitations and invitations like none before.

It is likely that we will not be able to gather in person in the church building for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Worship Task Group, Altar Guild, Joan Van Wormer, the Rev. Gregory Stark and I are making plans for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Watch for upcoming updates and information.

A recent manifestation for God’s dream for St. Andrew’s came in the achievement (and beyond) of the 2021 Financial Stewardship goal. To date the set goal has been surpassed and it is with great gratitude that this news is shared. Knowing that in spite of this being a financially challenging time for many, your generosity and trust in God’s dream for St. Andrew’s has promised financial provision for the coming year. So... even with a significantly reduced budget for 2021... we watch and wait and step out in faith, to step into God’s dream.

May you experience clarity of God’s love for you and the whole world in very real ways this season and may you join all of St. Andrew’s as we experience this Advent as an act of hope, an act of resistance and an act of faith.

Blessed Advent,

*Jane*

Mother June