

THOSE WHO DREAM

WORDS FOR WORSHIP *for Advent-Epiphany, Year B*

Written by Sarah Are

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The First Sunday in Advent

THOSE WHO DREAM... *keep awake (hope)*

Call to Worship¹

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.

¹ If you are worshipping online this season, you could adapt the lines that reference the worship space. Alternatively, you might introduce the Call to Worship by reminding worshipers that no matter where we worship, God is with us. Worship is a way of life, not just an event or a physical place. We cultivate sacred space by slowing down and being still enough to recognize God's presence in our midst, wherever we may be.

The First Sunday in Advent

THOSE WHO DREAM... *keep awake* (cont.)

Candle Lighting Liturgy | The Candle of Hope

Written for two voices, this liturgy could be adapted for three or four. We hope you will include children in this sacred ritual, as all of our weekly candle lighting liturgy is written with simple language and repetition to incorporate children's voices.

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.

Light candle.

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.

Prayer of Confession

Original Dreamer,

Over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world.

We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.

We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.

We hear your dream for community and hope.

We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.

We continue to live with the curtains drawn,

the covers pulled tight,

eyes shut to the realities of the world.

Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.

Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world.

With hope we pray, amen.