



Scripture and Dreams

Advent 2020 – Week 2

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Steamboat Springs, CO



Scripture and Dreams: Worship

Evensong (Advent 1)

An Order for Evening Worship (Advent 2-4)

Lectionary – Year B

- **Advent 1:** Dream Type Overview -- *Isaiah 64:1-9*;
I Corinthians 1:3-9; *Mark 13: 24-37*; Psalm 80
- **Advent 2:** Prophetic Dreams – *Isaiah 40:1-11*;
2 Peter 3:8-15a,18; *Mark 1:1-8*; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
- **Advent 3:** Predictive Dreams – *Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11*;
I Thess. 5:16-24; *John 1:6-8, 19-28*; Psalm 126 or
Canticle 15: Song of Mary
- **Advent 4:** Visitation and Revelatory Dreams –
2 Sam. 7:1-11,16; Rom.16:25-27; *Luke 1:26-38*; Psalm 8:1-4,19-26

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Scripture: Theological Reflection

- Scripture: Mark 1:1-8
- Context: Historical and Cultural
- Reflection: Faith Listening

Reflection: Faith Listening

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Read, Mark and Inwardly Digest Scripture to Discern God's Presence

Awaken to God's Life -- **Read** Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-19

Bless God's Name – **Mark** the passage by circling all the verbs/actions, Start at the bottom and mark from right to left. Take a piece of paper and make 2 columns

Verb/Action _____ God's Name _____

1. List all the verbs in the left column.
2. Convert each verb/action into a Name of God in the right column. Go becomes The One Who Goes ... Am becomes The Great I AM. Freely brainstorm to discover Who God is.

Celebrate God's Presence – **Inwardly Digest** by creating a Blessing Litany and saying a Breath Prayer.

Blessing Litany: For each Name you wrote down, say out loud to yourself, "Blessed are you LORD God, _____(Name)"

Breath Prayer: Choose the One Name that captures your imagination and allows you to breathe a sigh of relief. Let this be your Breath Prayer ... A Prayer of Adoration. Inhale to "Blessed are you LORD God" and exhale to "_____." Repeat this 3 times out loud and 3 times silently. Finish by saying, "May it be so ... Amen!"

Reflection: What are your discoveries about this passage ... about God's relationship with you? What difference does Faith Listening make in reading Scripture?

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Scripture and Dreams: Objectives

Upon completion of this interactive study, participants will be able to

- Identify 6 types of dreams found in Scripture
- Understand dreams as a symbolic representation and communication from God
- Apply Faith Listening as a practical way to discern God's Presence as revealed in a Dream

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Scripture and Dreams: 6 Types

1. *Prophetic*
2. *Predictive*
3. *Visitation*
4. *Revelatory*
5. *Interpretative*
6. *Integrative*



Scripture and Dreams: Prophetic

- **A prophetic dream** calls a people or a person into a right relationship with God. It recognizes that a covenant has been broken or that idols are being worshiped. It points to the fact that the people have gone astray and sets the crooked path straight.
- Thus the LORD God showed me, and behold, He was forming a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop was after the king's mowing. And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said, "LORD God, please pardon! How can Jacob stand, for he is small?" The LORD changed His mind about this. "It shall not be," said the LORD. [Amos 7:1-9](#)
- I saw the LORD standing beside the altar, and He said, "Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake and break them on the heads of them all! Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword; they will not have a fugitive who will flee, or a refugee who will escape...On that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen, and repair its breaches and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old. In order that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name, says the Lord (of Hosts) who does this." [Amos 9:1:18](#)



Scripture and Dreams: Prophetic

- ▶ Beatrice, a 60-year old woman, read from her journal a dream that had haunted her for several years. “I felt myself sinking into the mire of quick sand. It was dark all around me and the landscape was barren. Struggling, I attempted to save myself. But, the more I struggled, the more I sank. Then, I heard a voice say, “Be Still!” I ceased to move, looked around and there above me was a figure holding out a hand. I grasped the hand and was lifted up onto a high place and was set on solid ground.”
- ▶ Together we read the passage from Ps 46:10: “Be still, and know that I am God.” In a flash, she realized that in her willful independence and determination to make things right she had relied on her own strength and become her own god. The dream restored her faith to live into a dynamic relationship with God Who is the Great I AM ... The One Who is Still.



Dream Discovery Exercise

Supplies: 4 pieces of paper or a journal and colorful pens, crayons, chalk, markers, etc.

- 1. Represent your image of God:** Become familiar with your understanding of God as you currently represent it. On a piece of blank paper, draw your picture of God. Use crayons, colored pencils, chalk, or oil pastel. Choose colors, shapes textures and symbols that best represents your image of God or your God picture. Ask yourself:
 - ▶ “If God had a color, what color would God be?”
 - ▶ If God had a shape, what shape would God be?”
 - ▶ If God had a movement, what movement would God be?”
- 2. Represent your dream:** Think of a reoccurring dream. Become familiar with your dream without words. On a separate piece of blank paper, draw your dream. Use crayons, colored pencils, chalk, or oil pastel. Choose colors, shapes textures and symbols that best represents your dream.

Dream Discovery Exercise continued

3. Create a **Blessing Litany** from your two drawings. Become an art critique.
 - ▶ Take a separate piece of paper and make three columns.
 - ▶ List the color, shape, texture, movement and symbols you find in each.
 - ▶ Circle those that are common to your God picture and to your dream drawing.
 - ▶ Identify a Name of God suggested by the ones you circled. For example, red may signify blood ... Savior, Redeemer or Jesus, The Lamb of God; a circle may signify the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; soft may signify the Comforter; and a tree may signify the Life of God.
 - ▶ Sometimes the color, shape, texture or symbol leads you to a Scripture passage. The symbol of a tree may suggest the tree to the Tree of Life in Genesis (OT) or to the Tree of Life (born-again) in which Nicodemus sits (NT). Use your “internal concordance” and make a note of your Biblical references. Read it for Who God is ... Name God in the passage.
 - ▶ Say your Blessing Litany out loud.

Dream Discovery Worksheet

Elements	God Picture	God's Name Blessed are You, LORD GOD	Dream Picture
color			
color			
color			
shape			
shape			
shape			
texture			
texture			
texture			
movement			
movement			
movement			
Scripture: OT			
Scripture: NT			



Dream Discovery Exercise continued

4. Choose a **Breath Prayer**. Pick one Name from your Blessing Litany that captures your imagination ... one you like and gives you a sense of relief.
 - Inhale to “Blessed are you Lord God” ... exhale to “_____ (name)”
 - Repeat the prayer of adoration out-loud 3 times and silently 3 times. Finish by saying, “May it be so for _____. Amen!”
5. Reflect on your **discoveries**: Who is God? How is God actively present in your dream? How do you understand God to be speaking through your dream? What is God’s relationship with you as disclosed in your dream? What difference does Faith Listening make when you process your dream through the ears of Faith?

Small Group Break-Out Session



Share Discoveries





Advent 1: Homework

Practice Faith Listening

- Explore your dream.
 - Represent your image of God
 - Represent your dream
 - Be an art critique: list color, shape, texture, movement, symbols in each
 - Create a Blessing Litany
 - Say a Breath Prayer
 - Reflect on your discoveries about Who God is and What God is doing in your dream.
- Read Scripture.
 - Reflect upon a passage using Faith Listening
 - Make a note about Who God and What God is doing.

Closing Prayer



Those Who Dream: Prepare Mark 1:1-8

By Sarah Are sanctifiedart.org

My dad built me a changing table.
For nine months, my mom watched her ankles
swell and her belly grow. For nine months, my
dad would come home from work, kiss her on
her forehead— Pressing bangs to skin—and tell
her she was beautiful.
Then for nine months, he'd slip into the garage
To build sawdust sand castles and a dresser out
of dreams.
I imagine she smiled, perched in that rocking
chair. He was in his woodshop, preparing the
way.
Eighteen years later I left for college.
As I packed my bags, my mom baked
blueberry muffins for the road—the smell of
home.
She wrapped them in foil and placed them in a
cardboard box,
Willing similar layers of protection to be
wrapped around me, her little girl. She was
preparing the way.
My aunts and uncles bought sweatshirts in my

My dad taught me how to change a tire.
My mom gave me the earrings I'd been
sneaking from her jewelry box for the last four
years. I hid sticky-note love letters on the
kitchen door for them to find when they
returned home. We were quiet in the car.
My brother cried.
We were all preparing the way.
And through these moments, I have come to
see, That preparation and love can be the
same thing.
For there is something about love that makes
us want to prepare.
There is something about love that compels us
to Throw open the doors,
Yell it from the rooftop,
Set the table,
Decorate the nursery,
Leave love notes on the back door,
Build the changing table,
Trim the tree,
Bake muffins for the road,
And when it's time, If you must, Let go.
Preparation and love can be the same thing.



Presenters

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