

**Covenant United Methodist Church**

[www.covenant-umc.org](http://www.covenant-umc.org)

**20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886  
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**December 20, 2020  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Virtual and Indoor Worship Bulletin**

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**"A DREAM CONFIRMED"**

By Lisle Gwynn Garrity Inspired by Luke 1:26-45

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

### Those Who Dream

“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

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of a child,

**Suddenly, joy was overflowing.**

I knew love, but when you held my hand,

**Suddenly, love was overflowing.**

I knew God, but when you showed me grace,

when you forgave me,

when you loved me,

when you raised me,

**Suddenly, God was overflowing.**

So, let us worship Holy God together

As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.

**This is community.**

This is the body of Christ.

**Welcome home.**

*Prayer by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

### Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming  
Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

Susie Reiter

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-45

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Sleeping Adonai  
Chancel Choir with solo by Sandy Brunk

Heather Sorenson

Sermon

Those Who Dream.....*are not alone*

Pastor Dawn

Payer of Confession

God of Good News, you say to us, "I am with you," but we struggle to see you.

**You say to us, "Do not be afraid," but we are afraid all the time.**

You say to us, "Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!"

**But hope slips through our hands like water.**

The impossible still feels impossible.

**So today we pray: Teach us to submit like Mary.**

Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth.

**Teach us to carry your greetings like the angels.**

Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all.

Amen.

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

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

Closing Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
Chancel Choir

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that this world is hard—**

**Harder than it has to be.**

**When the world falls apart around us,**

**We believe in listening for the angels that say, "Do not be afraid,"**

**And in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives—**

**Those who laugh with joy at our arrival**

**And throw open the doors to their homes.**

**We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing,**

**Through the laughter of cousins,**

**The joy shared between siblings,**

**And the home found in partnership.**

**Therefore, we believe in church families,**

**In chosen families,  
And in the love that extends beyond family.  
We believe in friendships,  
In neighbors,  
And in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.  
We believe in the Triune God—  
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—  
Inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.  
We believe that that same belovedness exists for us.  
We believe that we are loved and claimed,  
Never alone.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Benediction