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| |  | | --- | | November 15th, 2020 – 10:30am Springfield Presbyterian Church Order of Worship   *Announcements*   *Lighting the Christ Candle* Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim: **People: Christ is the Light of the world and center of our lives.**   *Gathering of the People* Leader: The Lord be with you! **People: And also with you!** [Greetings and Announcements]   *Call to Worship* Leader: In this place, we come for something new, **People: We come to worship, we come to listen,** Leader: We come to this place to praise you, **People: We come to hear the hearts of our beloved family,** Leader: We come to pray the prayers of our minds and our souls, **People: We come to sing in words old and new,** Leader: May our worship be pleasing unto you, O God of Creation, **People: As we seek to glorify you.**   *\* Hymn* #409   *God is Here!*  (vs. 1, 3, &4)   *Prayer of Confession* **Generous God, our world is chaotic, often filled with noise and shouts and news that we can no longer hear your voice. In the words of children, in the soft wind that flows through the trees, and in the dreams ushered in as we rest; we tune these important ways in which you speak to us out of our minds. Forgive us for being complacent, for not seeking space and time with You, and for those moments in which we should have acted and did not. Renew us again to hear your voice and inspire us to dare to live out the Word you speak to us today. Amen.**   *Silent Prayers of Confession*   *Words of Assurance (responsive)* Leader: Our God is a God of grace, one whose grace and love is beyond our comprehension and understanding. In love, God forgives us. **People: Thanks be to God, who renews us once again to right relationship with him. Amen.**   *The Peace* Leader: The peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)   *The Proclamation of the Word*   *Prayer of Illumination*  Generous God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us. Open our eyes to see it, our ears to hear it, our hearts to hold it, our hands to serve it. Amen.   *Scripture Lesson* Genesis 41:1-36 **Joseph Interprets Pharaoh’s Dream**  **41**After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, **2**and there came up out of the Nile seven sleek and fat cows, and they grazed in the reed grass. **3**Then seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. **4**The ugly and thin cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. And Pharaoh awoke. **5**Then he fell asleep and dreamed a second time; seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. **6**Then seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them. **7**The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Pharaoh awoke, and it was a dream. **8**In the morning his spirit was troubled; so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh. **9**Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “I remember my faults today. **10**Once Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard. **11**We dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own meaning. **12**A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each according to his dream. **13**As he interpreted to us, so it turned out; I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.” **14**Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. **15**And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” **16**Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” **...** **25**Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. **26**The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. **27**The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are seven years of famine. **28**It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. **29**There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. **30**After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land. **31**The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous. **32**And the doubling of Pharaoh’s dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. **33**Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. **34**Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. **35**Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. **36**That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.”   *Meditations – Four Poems on Dreaming*   1. Introduction: ‘I Dreamed in a Dream’ is a short poem by Walt Whitman. As the repetition of ‘dream’ in Whitman’s title suggests, this poem combines the two principal meanings of ‘dream’: ambition and illusion. Whitman dreamt of a utopian city where ‘robust love’ triumphed and flourished, above all else. (from [interestingliterature.com](http://interestingliterature.com/))  ‘I Dreamed in a Dream’ by Walt Whitman I dream’d in a dream, I saw a city invincible to the attacks of the whole of the rest of the earth; I dream’d that was the new City of Friends; Nothing was greater there than the quality of robust love—it led the rest; It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of that city, And in all their looks and words.  2. ‘Dreams’ by Langston Hughes Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly. Hold fast to dreams for when dreams go Life is a barren field frozen with snow.  3. ‘The Land Of Dreams’ by William Blake Awake, awake my little Boy! Thou wast thy Mother's only joy: Why dost thou weep in thy gentle sleep? Awake! thy Father does thee keep.  "O, what land is the Land of Dreams? What are its mountains, and what are its streams? O Father, I saw my Mother there, among the lilies by waters fair.  Among the lambs clothed in white she walked with her Thomas in sweet delight. I wept for joy, like a dove I mourn—O when shall I return again?"  Dear child, I also by pleasant streams have wandered all night in the Land of Dreams; But though calm and warm the waters wide, I could not get to the other side.  "Father, O Father, what do we here, in this land of unbelief and fear? The Land of Dreams is better far above the light of the Morning Star."   4. ‘A Dream of Trees’ by Mary Oliver There is a thing in me that dreamed of trees, A quiet house, some green and modest acres A little way from every troubling town, A little way from factories, schools, laments. I would have time, I thought, and time to spare, With only streams and birds for company. To build out of my life a few wild stanzas. And then it came to me, that so was death, A little way away from everywhere.  There is a thing in me still dreams of trees, But let it go. Homesick for moderation, Half the world’s artists shrink or fall away. If any find solution, let him tell it. Meanwhile I bend my heart toward lamentation Where, as the times implore our true involvement, The blades of every crisis point the way.  I would it were not so, but so it is. Who ever made music of a mild day?     *This week, may you be guided by the Word and by these words as you consider and dream of a world that looks different from the world in which we live in, the power of dreams in our lives, and what our dreams might be guiding us to do, say, or act upon today or into the future.*   *The Response to the Word*   *\* Hymn* #291   *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*  *Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer*  “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.” Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”**  And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray…  **Our Father,** **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven and give us this day our daily bread** **and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** **For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**   *Offertory Prayer*   *Hymn* #309   *Come, Great God of All the Ages*(first three verses)   *Charge & Benediction* Leader: In our rest, we find our dreams. **People: From old, you tell us their power.** Leader: Help us to listen closely to them, **People: To consider what you might be saying through them.** Leader: So that we may be people who listen to your Spirit, **People: As we wake and as we sleep.** | |