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| December 20th, 2020 – 10:30amSpringfield Presbyterian Church - Advent IV – Those Who Dream Are Not Alone Lighting the Christ CandleLeader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim:**People: Christ is the Light of the world and center of our lives.** Gathering of the PeopleLeader: The Lord be with you!**People: And also with you!** [Greetings and Announcements] Lighting of the Advent CandlesCall to Worship  Leader: I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,**People: Suddenly, joy was overflowing.**Leader: I knew love, but when you held my hand,**People: Suddenly, love was overflowing.**Leader: I knew God, but when you showed me grace, when you forgave me, when you raise me,**People: Suddenly, God was overflowing.**Leader: So let us worship God together as a reminder,**People: That God is here and we are never alone.**Leader: This is community.**People: This is the body of Christ. ALL: Let us worship God.**\* Hymn   O God, We Long for Better DaysPrayer of ConfessionGod of Good News, you say to us, “we are highly favored,” but we struggle to see how that could be. You say to us, “do not be afraid,” but I am 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, to teach us to sing like Mary, to laugh like Elizabeth, to trust like the angels. Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all. Amen.Silent Prayers of Confession Words of Assurance (responsive)Leader: God’s forgiveness is from everlasting to everlasting.**People: Let us praise God whose love and mercy overflows! We are a grateful, forgiven people!**The PeaceLeader: The peace of Christ be with you!**People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)The Proclamation of the WordPrayer of Illumination  Holy God, before you could speak, you were speaking – leaping in wombs, kicking, stretching, and jumping for joy. You have always found a way to show up in our midst, particularly on our fearful or lonely days. Before you could speak, you were speaking, so here and now, Creator God, we are listening. Amen.Scripture Lesson    Luke 1:46-55 NRSV **Mary’s Song of Praise****46**And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, **47**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48**for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; **49**for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **50**His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **51**He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. **52**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; **53**he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. **54**He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55**according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” Sermon Those Who Dream Are Not Alone The Response to the Word \* Hymn     O Little Town of Bethlehem – GtG121Pastoral 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 Anthem The Cherry Tree Carol Hymn     Love Has Come – GtG110Charge & BenedictionLeader: A little love,**People: Does a lot of good.**Leader: And as God loved us first,**People: We live as a beloved people.**Leader: We now live out that love,**People: By being disciples who live their lives in service and in love. Amen.** |
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