



## The Cathedral of St. Andrew - Honolulu

### Sermon: Year A – Advent 4 – December 22, 2019: The JAL 747 at Osaka International

When I was 26 years old and I lived and worked in Hiroshima, I sat in the waiting area of the Osaka International Airport so that I could catch a flight home to Honolulu—my first trip home after having lived and worked in Japan for almost a year.

It was about 6 o'clock in the evening and the sun was beginning to sink into Osaka Bay and I looked out the window of the waiting area and noticed a Japan Airlines 747 making a left turn onto the runway. As it was careening into its turn, a sunbeam hit the white surface of the airplane and made it come ablaze in orange and it caught my eye.

Then the airplane completed its turn, thrust its engines, and took off into the sky at sunset over Osaka Bay. It looked to me like God was pulling that airplane up into the air and as it flew away I thought of all the places I wondered where the plane was going – London, Paris, Sydney, New York—places I'd never been, but hoped to go one day.

Of course, as you all know, I've been to all those places now. When I lived in Japan one of the mottos for Japan Airlines was: Put your dreams on the wings. Indeed, I put my dreams on the wings of that 747 as God pulled into the sky and it bore my dreams up on those wings and gave me the courage to do what I needed to do to make those dreams come true. I traveled the world.

That's how it is in the world of dreams, the world where God spoke to Joseph through a dream, giving him his call, telling him what God wanted him to do. Joseph had a dream, second Joseph in the Bible to have dreams, the first being the Joseph of the Old Testament who interpreted dreams for Pharaoh.

There are some out there who say that God dreams us into existence and that we come into this world from the world of dreams and when we die we go back into that same world of dreams. Our dreams speak to us, our dreams inspire us, our dreams give us glimpses into the possibilities that God has in store for us, including flying toward fabulous destinations on 747s that fly into the sky at sunset.

What are your dreams? And what is God calling you to do through those dreams? Who is God inspiring you to be? What is God inspiring you to do? And do you trust those dreams and what they might mean for you?

Joseph did. And he saved the Son of God.

I have dreams. I have dreams for this church – that we will continue to be a vibrant and loving community of Christians who go forth into the world and spread Christ's Gospel message love to the community around us. Years ago I had a dream about becoming a spiritual director and I had the grace to live into that dream and make it come true. 10 or 15 years ago I had a dream about becoming a priest and thanks to many of you, I was able to pursue that dream and make it come true.

*“Our beloved Church regards her children as having bodies as well as souls to be cared for, and sanctions the consecration of these and all that is beautiful in nature and art to the service of God.” . . - Queen Emma.*

## Advent 4 –December 22, 2019, cont'd.

And many, many years ago I sat in an airport in Japan and watched a 747 lift off into the sky and dreamed of places I wanted to go—and those dreams came true as well.

And if God dreams us into being, then perhaps God dreams about us all the time, and if that's the case, I ask God to dream a little dream of me, and you, inspiring us, empowering us to do what God would have us do to live into God's will and give God glory. For Joseph, it was a call to wed Mary. What will it be as God dreams a little dream of you, dreams a little dream of me?

As we ponder that and become open to what God might say to us through our dreams, I leave you with the words of the Mamas and Papas:

*Stars shining bright above you  
Night breezes seem to whisper "I love you"  
Birds singing in the sycamore tree  
Dream a little dream of me*

*Say "Night-ie night" and kiss me  
Just hold me tight and tell me you'll miss me  
While I'm alone and blue as can be  
Dream a little dream of me*

*Sweet dreams till sunbeams find you  
Sweet dreams that leave all worries behind you  
But in your dreams whatever they be  
Dream a little dream of me  
Dream a little dream of me*

*Amen.*