

11-17-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Jesus isn’t telling us what will happen to scare us but to assure us that God is still with us. Wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines—these are all going to happen, *and still*, God is with us. We are not alone. When we are tempted to believe that God has abandoned us when we want to question what kind of God would allow such evil to happen, Jesus refocuses our attention—this is not the end. This is the hope that grounds [us] today — *all that is wrong in our world is not the end of the story.*”

Lisa Hancock



Mark 13:1-13

Questions for Reflection —

- Over the course of your life what structural changes have you observed—changes in rules/laws/systems governing the way we live—in the church and in society? Did any of those changes cause you to be fearful or anxious? How did you find peace in the face of those fears/anxieties? About what potential changes in the church or in society are you presently unsure? What do you need in order to find peace of mind in the face of present changes?

- What are some of the things that presently are making you worried or fearful? On what are those worries focused (e.g. family matters; work issues; societal, national, or international concerns)? What do you need in order to refocus your attention on that which is life-giving and hope-sustaining? How can we as a congregation foster hope and assurance of God’s presence for those among us who are worried or fearful?

- Where do you turn when you feel troubled by current events in our world or alarmed by things that affect the people closest to you? What sustains your hope? What helps you to trust in God’s ongoing presence? How can we as a congregation better serve God’s purpose in all we do through our programs and ministries? Where do you see signs of God’s work among us and beyond us? What helps you to see God already at work in challenging circumstances?

Daily Household Prayer

Ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.