



Nov. 29, 2020 Mk. 13: 24-37. Is 64_1-9

First Sunday of Advent

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

In these times of turmoil, both in nature and in culture; with anxiety levels off the charts, the temptation to resort to end time explanations is everywhere. Yet, Jesus himself resisted this dooms day escapism approach. Instead, he says, be alert! Realize that these changes will come and bring with them the future. He knew that change and growth always comes with struggle and risk. How good are you at trusting Jesus' promise this year?

Mk. 13:24-37

24 But in those days, following that **distress**, "the **sun** will be **darkened**, and the **moon** will not give its light; 25 the **stars** will fall from the sky, and the **heavenly bodies** will be **shaken**.' 26 At that time men will see the **Son of Man** coming in **clouds** with great power and **glory**. 27 And he will send his **angels** and gather his elect from the **four winds**, from the ends of the **earth** to the ends of the **heavens**. 28 Now learn this lesson from the **fig** tree:

As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves **come out**, you know that **summer** is **near**. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is **near**, right at the door. 30 I tell you the truth, this **generation** will certainly not **pass away** until all these things have happened. 31 **Heaven** and **earth** will **pass away**, but my **words** will never pass away. 32 No one **knows** about that **day** or **hour**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the **Father**. 33 Be on **guard**! Be **alert**! You do not **know** when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his **house** and puts his **servants** in charge, each with his **assigned** task, and tells the one at the door to keep **watch**. 35 Therefore keep **watch** because you do not **know** when the owner of the **house** will come back--whether in the **evening**, or at **midnight**, or when the **rooster crows**, or at **dawn**. 36 If he comes **suddenly** do not let him find you **sleeping**. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: '**Watch!**'"

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus tells us that even he does not know the future. But he does know God's promise.

What helps you to trust the promise like Jesus trusted?

PRAYER: Lord, like the trees around me these days, my branches are becoming bare of leaves. When I look around at all the struggle and turmoil in the world, it causes that same struggle and turmoil in my heart. Help me to face all this with the same hope that Jesus speaks about, as he uses the fig tree that will endure to produce buds in the spring. Amen.