

the HOME SHEET

this week's topic:

WONDERFUL JOYOUS DAY FOR ALL
JOYFULLY AWAITING WITHOUT HEARTACHE

I. CHECK-IN

- Check-in with each other. How is life? What is happening? How is everyone doing?
- Check in about last week: How was everyone's Thanksgiving?

II. SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:36-44: But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the son. Only the father knows. As it was in the time of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Human One. In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. They didn't know what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. The coming of the Human One will be like that. At that time there will be two men in the field. One will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill. One will be taken and the other left. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know what day the Lord is coming. But you understand that if the head of the house knew at what time the thief would come, he would keep alert and wouldn't allow the thief to break into his house. Therefore, you also should be prepared, because the Human One will come at a time you don't know.

V. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. CHALLENGE

While we live in the "between times," what can you do to help people experience heaven here and now? Make a plan and be ready to share next week!

Be prepared to share about this next week.

III. DISCUSSION

- Have you ever joyfully awaited something only to end up with heartache because things didn't go the way you hoped they would?
- During advent we remember and await a future coming. During Christmas we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Have you ever understood or recognized the difference between these Advent and Christmas? How did this sermon help you?
- Pastor Fernie mentions that the scripture reading for today is an apocalyptic text, which means that it tells us about the end times. What are your thoughts about reading this text as we enter into Advent?
- Have you ever experience any fear or worry talking about the end times?
- Pastor Fernie points our two good news in the scripture:
 - We need not worry about the end days because even Jesus doesn't know when the end days will be. Instead of focusing on the end days, like Jesus, we are called to help people experience heaven here and now. Does this bring you comfort? How?
 - Like Noah, we do not need to be perfect in order to experience heaven. Instead of perfection, God asks us to keep our faith in him and that we do our best to imitate Jesus. Does this bring you comfort? How?
- What difference can happen in your life, if during this Advent season, we embraced what was and what is to come? Would this world be a better place? How?

MIDCITY CHURCH
WONDERFUL JOYOUS
day for all