

Week beginning November 29th

Advent: Hope in the Waiting

Opening Questions

- November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent. As you begin this season what are you hoping for?
- How would you describe the hope you have as a Christian to a non-believer?

Getting into the text

Read Mark 13: 24-37

- In this passage Jesus is describing the time when he will return. How would the disciples would know that this time was near?

- How will Jesus' return to earth be different from the first time he came?

- Who are the elect whom the angels will gather?

- Who knows when this day will come?

- How should the disciples be living as they wait?

Applying the Bible to your life

- The events Jesus is describing sound very dramatic. Why can you wait for this time with hope rather than fear?

- How can you be living in readiness for this time? You might like to think back to the parables you have read in the last few weeks. What guidance have they given you?

Something to pray about

Peter writes about God, **'He will keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.'** (1 Peter 1:8)

- Spend some time in praise and thanksgiving that because of Jesus you have been welcomed into God's kingdom.
- Pray for those who do not know Jesus yet, asking God to show you how you can reach out to them.
- Pray for strength and encouragement for those who are sharing the good news of Jesus in the troubled areas of the world.