

Hope

WAITING IN HOPE

LUKE 21:25-36 // BE ALERT

REFLECTION Are you tired of waiting? As Advent begins, it may feel like you've been in a perpetual state of waiting: to feel safe and free from illness, to have dialogue across differences and to work towards peace. The text reads, "there will be signs," and you wonder what signs are meant for you to see. We question whether we can discern what is right and good in a world that is so loud and filled with people vying to have their voices heard. In a season focused on decorations, lights, presents and extra worship services, congregation members may not know which signs to heed. The text tells us, "Be on guard," watch and be alert. Yet, it feels as if this is how many people have spent the last two years — listening and watching and pivoting. We've become experts at figuring out how to do the usual things in a new way at work, worship, school, travel, and play. But there is fatigue, and many may already be asking, "Can we get a break from waiting?" Read together Luke 21:34-36.

1. What are you waiting for in your life? How do you think your experience of waiting is different from the original message of Luke's Gospel?
2. The text reads: "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down." What is weighing on your heart? How can you offer your worries to God?
3. At the beginning of Advent, what things can you focus on to help you be more alert to God's presence in your life?

PRAY God of Signs and Wonders, be with us. When we feel overwhelmed, calm our hearts. When all we do is wait, give us your peace. When the ground beneath our feet feels unsteady, give us strength. In this season of waiting and hope, turn us to your Word, your love, and your grace. We wait, trusting that your Saviour will be born among us. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who calls us near. Amen.

SHARE YOUR LOVE As we eagerly wait for Christ's coming, so many of our partners around the world are also waiting ... For basic needs to be met, IT services, water, Biblical training. For hope. When you help partners like our friends in Southeast Asia, you spread hope throughout the world. Who will you reach next? Visit LDL.ORG/ADVENT-HOPE to make your gift and be a light in the darkness for someone in need.