

Session – Theme: Ready or Not

Opening is the Psalm 122;

122 I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”	⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!”
² Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!	⁷ Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!”
³ Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,	⁸ For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, “Peace be within you!”
⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.	⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.
⁵ There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.	

Reading of a brief story:

1. What is it like to live in constant anticipation? _____
2. During the season of Advent, Christians prepare for the celebration of Christ’s incarnation—the Word become flesh. We also look forward to Christ’s Second Coming as we experience His daily coming to us by means of Word and Sacrament. How are you preparing for the events of the Second Coming? _____ What can you do while you are waiting? _____

Let us look to the scripture readings:

Matthew 24:37-44 ESV

37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

1. In the Gospel reading, what do the days of Noah and the short parable of the owner of the house teach us about Christ's return? _____
2. According to Matthew, how are we to be prepared for the Second Coming of Christ?

3. Do verses 40 and 41 imply that Christians will be taken from the earth while nonbelievers are left behind for a period of tribulation? _____

Romans 13:11-14 ESV

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

4. In Romans 13:12; what does night and day allude to? _____
5. What does Paul mean in verse 14 when he writes that we are clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ? _____

Isaiah 2:1-5 ESV

2 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,

3 and many peoples shall come, and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

6. What outcome of Christ's return is pictured in the Old Testament reading? _____
7. What does it mean to "walk in the light of the Lord"? _____

Connect:

8. How did Jesus catch the people of His day off guard?
9. What concerns do you have regarding Christ's return? How are you to be prepared?
10. How might you or your congregation offer hope in a world filled with darkness?
11. What hope does Isaiah 2:1-5 offer to you?

Let's pray together: Stir up, we implore You, Your power. O Lord, and come that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and be saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

