



Heads up

Luke 21.25-36

This passage comes just before Jesus is arrested. The religious leaders are trying to catch Jesus out and to get him into arguments. It seems a very dark and difficult time, but there are small signs of hope. And there is encouragement in difficult times to stand up, look up and look for hope.

Now read Luke 21.25-36 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Often in difficult times, we may only be able to see the challenges and they may seem so big that we may not always see the small signs of hope. This passage encourages us to look upward with hope. How might we spot the small signs of hope in the dark and difficult times?



The artist writes: 'It takes a lot of courage to show yourself, to open your own cage, and let your soul be free!' – how is this a hopeful image?

LOOK UP

A rainbow, the sun, the stars and the white clouds – which is your favourite and why? What do they have in common? There may be many answers, but perhaps the simplest is: we have to look up to see them. Draw your favourite from the suggestions above. Inside, on or around what you have drawn, write your hopes for you, for the street where you live, for your country and for the world. The Bible encourages us to keep looking up, looking forwards, praying and looking to God for hope.



Make a 'hope' banner. Write the letters H O P E in bubble writing on four separate pieces of card or paper. Decorate and cut them out. Stick them on a wall using non-marking putty, or on a window facing outwards for others to see. Leave it up throughout Advent which is a time of hope and waiting before we celebrate Jesus' birth – bringing hope to the world.

Daily Prayer

At the beginning of each day, ask yourself two questions: What am I most looking forward to today? What is my hope for today? Then, at the end of the day, ask yourself three questions: What did I most enjoy today? Did I learn anything new today – about myself, someone else, something I never knew? Did my hope happen or come true, or did something else give hope that I wasn't expecting? Take time each day to thank God for the good things that happen, and to pray for your hopes.

GROW

Plant cress pots as a sign of hope.

You will need: small plant pots (yoghurt pots are ideal), cotton wool, cress seeds. Put cotton wool into the pots and soak gently with water. Sprinkle cress seeds onto the cotton wool and gently press down. Keep the pots in a light, warm place. Within two days you should see cress appearing. After five to seven days, it may be tall enough to cut and enjoy on a sandwich – or however you choose! How does it feel to see the cress growing? Where might you see tiny signs of hope today?

DRAW



Often when we are worried or afraid of something it can seem so big; yet even the smallest sign of hope can help them seem more manageable. Think or talk with others about how you felt/feel during the pandemic. Where did you see signs of hope? Has it been easier to be hopeful as the time has gone on?

What are your hopes now? Draw a rainbow on a small piece of paper. Write these words underneath the rainbow: 'God plans to give you a hope and a future' (Jer 29.11). Keep this with you all week.



ATIC Toy Service



At our ATIC service on Sunday 12th December rather than asking you to buy toys we will be asking for cash donations. These will be given to the Food Bank who will distribute gift vouchers for Toy Shops. This will enable parents to select suitable toys for their children themselves. A separate plate will be available on the day – please do give generously.



We are having a pre-Christmas party on Friday 3rd December from 6.30 – 9.30 p.m. in the Lincoln Green Lounge (WR5 1QU). Games, party pieces, sausage supper and lots of fun! Tea, coffee and soft drinks or bring your own. Tickets £3.50 from Penny. If you would like to read a poem, sing, tell some jokes, perform some tricks or something else, please let us know when booking.

Church Christmas Tree

We plan to have a Christmas tree with home-made decorations on our site again - local children and groups are busy making decorations. If any church members would like to make a decoration too, that would be lovely. Reasonably weatherproof please!



Bring to church or contact Penny who will collect it.

Christmas services 2021

Sunday 19th December 4.00 p.m. at the Community Centre - Nine Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m. **(Online only)** Midnight Mass for the Worcester South East Team – please let Rob know if you would like joining instructions.

Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. at the Community Centre – Christmas Communion.

The service on Sunday 26th December will be a Team service at St Martin's at 10.00 a.m. There is no service at Ronkswood that day.

Daily Readings for week commencing 29 th November 2021		
Monday	Isaiah 25: 1-9	Matthew 12: 1-21
Tuesday	Ezekiel 47: 1-12	John 12: 20-32 <i>St Andrew</i>
Wednesday	Isaiah 28: 1-13	Matthew 12: 38-end
Thursday	Isaiah 28: 14-end	Matthew 13: 1-23
Friday	Isaiah 29: 1-14	Matthew 13: 24-43
Saturday	Isaiah 29: 15-end	Matthew 13: 44-end

Pray for those in need...Sally, Tristan, Mark, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Ian, Juliette and Nicki. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...***Pete, Rosina and Carole.