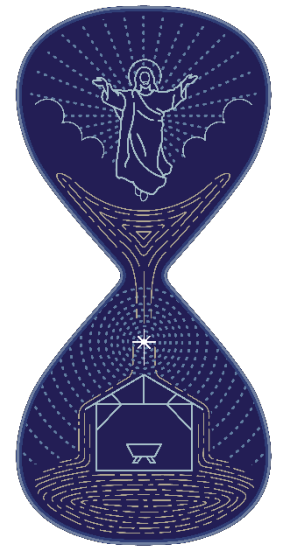


Small Group Discussion

Hope: Look into the Shadows

Advent Week 1: Mark 13.24-37



Getting Started

- What is something you are looking forward to in this next year?
- Can you think of a time where you were anticipating something to happen and it didn't? How did that make you feel?

Static Questions

- **What was the passage about?**
 - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
 - Pay attention to the main *points* of the passage.
- **What did you learn?**
 - What did the passage reveal about God? About people?
 - Was there a promise or command or a warning?
 - What is the big idea of the passage?
 - What lessons do you see?
- **How will you apply it?**
 - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
 - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this message?
 - How should you respond based on what you learned?

From the Teaching this Morning

- Sten-Erik kept repeating the phrase “Advent begins in the shadows.” What do you think he meant by that?
- How is this idea of Advent different than the way you may have traditionally celebrated Christmas through the month of December?
- In Mark 13, Jesus provides a sobering picture of what will precede the end of days, and then tells us to be alert. From the text, what role should our thinking about the signs of the end and attempting to decode events on the world stage play in our lives?

Application Questions

- What is something you could do this Advent season to enter into the shadows and share the message of hope with others? Share your ideas with the group.
- What scares you about this idea? How might others be able to encourage you as we seek to be faithful watchmen, awaiting the return of our master?

