

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Be Ready**  
**Mark 13:1-8**

**Welcome**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Announcements**

**Community Bible Study**

**Wednesday's at 7 a.m., Noon and 7 p.m.**, we are having a community Bible study on the book of James. This will be a line-by-line examination of the book of James in an informal setting.

Things that we will find are emphasized in the book of James are the Word of God; Prayer; Faith and Works; as well as separation from the world. He does this by examining many of the challenges that Christians face involving; suffering, works; controlling their tongue; illness and resisting worldly influences.

**Youth Program**

On Friday's at 7 p.m. the youth 12+ are invited to join Pastor Gerry at the church and explore Faith. We will look at issues of faith that are typical for today's youth, questions about God and faith, as well as spend some time learning about the doctrines of the church, the foundational core of Christianity and how to defend our faith when we are challenged.

The last Friday of every month will be an open question night where Pastor Gerry will answer questions from the youth about God and Faith.

**Contemporary Service**

Sunday's at 1 p.m. we will have a Contemporary Worship Service. This service will be a mixture of a traditional service and modern service. The sermon will be identical to the 10:30 a.m. service, however the order of service will be altered, and the music will be more contemporary in fashion.

It is my hope that though offering a later service we can reach those who are seeking God within the community and help them find a church in which they can take part in fellowship and build their relationship with God.

If you should have any comments, concerns or suggestions please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

God Bless,  
Pastor Gerry

### **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Lift up your heads, you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.

**Lift up your heads, you gates;**

**lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

**The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts;  
eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil;  
eternal Power, be our support;  
eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance; eternal Love, have mercy upon us,  
that with all our heart and mind and strength  
we may seek your face  
and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Opening Hymn #10 (green): “O Worship the King”**

O worship the King,  
all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing  
His power and His love;

Our Shield and Defender,  
 the Ancient of Days,  
 Pavilioned in splendor,  
 and girded with praise.

O tell of His might,  
 O sing of His grace,  
 Whose robe is the light,  
 Whose canopy space,  
 Whose chariots of wrath  
 the deep thunderclouds form,  
 And dark is His path  
 on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care,  
 what tongue can recite?  
 It breathes in the air,  
 it shines in the light;  
 It streams from the hills,  
 it descends to the plain,  
 And sweetly distills  
 in the dew and the rain.

### Call to Confession

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD.  
 “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;  
 though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

### Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
 according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**  
 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,  
 so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**  
 You desire truth in the inward being;  
 therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
**Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.** Create in me a clean heart,  
 O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.  
**Do not cast me from your presence,  
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

There is no condemnation  
 for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
 For the law of the Spirit  
 of life in Christ Jesus  
 has set you free from the law of sin and death.  
 Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
 The old life has gone;  
 a new life has begun.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.  
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,  
 Forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Responsive Reading**

PSALM 16  
*Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.  
 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;  
 I have no good apart from you."*

**As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,  
 in whom is all my delight.**

*The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;  
 their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
 or take their names on my lips.*

**The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;  
 you hold my lot.  
 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;**

**indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

*I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.  
I have set the LORD always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

**Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.**

**You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**Music Ministry: Choir “Blessing Riddle”**

**Scripture**

**MARK 13:1-8**

**And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” <sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”**

**<sup>3</sup> And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup> And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.**

**Children’s Hymn: “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”**

Tell me the stories of Jesus  
I love to hear;

Things I would ask him to tell me  
 If He were here:  
 Scenes by the wayside,  
 Tales of the sea,  
 Stories of Jesus,  
 Tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children  
 Stood round his knee,  
 And I shall fancy his blessing  
 Resting on me;  
 Words full of kindness,  
 Deeds full of grace,  
 All in the love-light  
 Of Jesus' face.

Into the city I'd follow  
 The children's band,  
 Waving a branch of the palm tree  
 High in my hand;  
 One of his heralds,  
 Yes, I would sing  
 Loudest hosannas,  
 "Jesus is King!"

### Children's Lesson



I think everyone here has gone on a trip. Some of us might have gone someplace special for a vacation, or maybe to visit family who live far away. Some of us may have gone by plane, or maybe by boat, but usually we are in for a long drive in the car. When we are on these trips, especially when we go someplace for the first time, we are dependent on our GPS and the signs we see along the road to tell us where we are and how much further we need to go before we reach our destination.

In today's scripture Jesus is telling his disciples the signs that they will see in the world before they will see Jesus again. These signs that Jesus described to them are kind of like the signs we see along the road when we are driving somewhere on a trip. They will tell everyone who is waiting to see Jesus when they are getting closer to seeing him.

Jesus tells them about these signs because he wants them to be able to spend forever living with him in the Kingdom of Heaven. So, these are particularly important signs for everyone to know. He tells the disciples about all the signs they will see. But just like sometime when we are driving, we might see lots of signs with the name of where we are going, just because we see the name it does not mean we are there already. Sometimes when we see the name it might be a short trip like down to Smith Falls, or a longer trip, like to Ottawa, or an even longer trip like Halifax or Vancouver. So when we see one of the signs Jesus talks about it does not mean He is almost here, it just reminds us that he is coming.

God gave us these signs, for the same reasons we have signs on the road, so that we can find our way to where we are going safely. These signs of the return of Jesus are not things we need to be afraid of, instead they are signs that should tell us we are getting closer to the kingdom of Heaven. We should also remember that we are also signs for Jesus made by Jesus in this world as well. We are signs of who Jesus was and how he wants us to live. When we follow Jesus in how we live our life, we help other people find Jesus. We do this by how we think, speak, and act every day.



I challenge you all today to think about the kind of sign you are for Jesus. Are you a tiny little sign that is along the side of the road, or are you a giant, brightly lit billboard that tells people about how great Jesus is and how wonderful he can be in your life?

Let us pray,

*Thank you for all of the signs in our lives of your love, especially your son Jesus. Make us signs of your love and hope for the entire world to see. Remind us to not be afraid but to trust your promise to be with us always. Amen.*

### **Prayer for illumination**

O Lord, teach us your ways and give us the grace to follow them.

Give us eyes to see the world as you do.

Give us hearts to love others as you do.

And give us the wisdom to discern how best to live as followers of Jesus, your Living Word.

**Amen**

### **Sermon**

The scripture we are looking at today is part of what is known as the Olivet discourse. In the book of Mark this is the longest documented speech of Jesus Christ. What he says

here is also recorded in the book of Matthew chapters 24 and 25, and in the book of Luke chapter 21. In this discourse Jesus speaks about the end of times and the events that will take place when he returns, and the end of this world which will take place before the coming of His new kingdom.

This is an incredibly difficult passage to interpret and understand, perhaps the most difficult in the Gospels because it is based upon prophecy. It is for this reason we have seen many false teachers utilize these passages for their own goals, they use them to scare people, to teach falsely about the end of times, to teach falsely about, or even in some instances to claim to be, the Second Coming of Christ.

Prophecy is something that people are generally fearful of, it is hard to understand, and it is hard to apply to our daily lives. Prophecy is something we all like to think of as being far away, not in our lifetime, not even in our children's or even our grandchildren's lifetime. This is especially true with the prophecies about the end of times and Jesus's Second Coming. Yet the truth is that we should take the time to read and understand prophecy in the scripture, because whether we want prophecy to become reality in our lifetime it could, and we should be prepared.

There are a few things that we need to know as we dig into the Olivet Discourse.

- Firstly, it is a prophecy that was written primarily to the people of the time, to the nation of Israel, and it is for this reason that it does not have a reference to the rapture. The idea of the rapture is something that we see appear elsewhere in scripture as well as in the book of Revelation.
- Second, it is a prophecy that follows God's timeline not mankind's. So, there will be parts of the prophecy that are already fulfilled and there are parts that are still awaiting fulfillment. As we examine the prophecy, we will be looking at what has happened already in human history and what is still to come in the future.
- Lastly, it is prophecy, which means no one knows all the answers to what it means except God. No biblical scholar, no theologian, no pastor has ever been able to fully comprehend the Olivet Discourse and it is for this reason that we need to be humble as we move through it and understand that we will likely never completely understand everything that Jesus says. Instead, we need to learn to glean what we can from his words and apply them to our lives as Christians in the world.

### **MARK 13:1-8**

**And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!"**



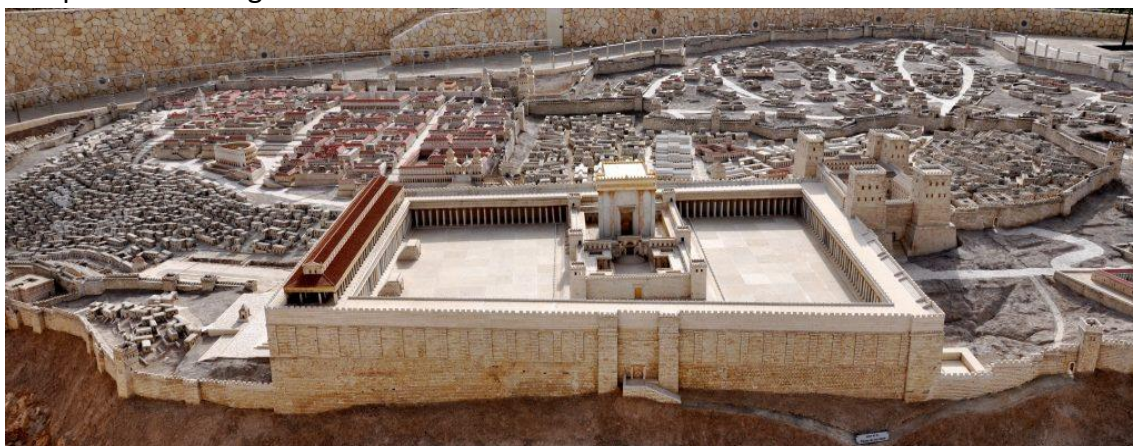
The disciples have been with Jesus in the Temple as he has taught through many difficult parables. They have heard him as taught the scribes of the greatest commandment. Just recently they have heard him admonish those who are prideful.

Now as they are leaving the Temple one of the disciples looks up at this astonishing building and comments on the beauty of the Temple structure. The Temple that was in Jerusalem at the time was perhaps one of the most spectacular building that existed within the Roman Empire.



The original Temple that had stood in Jerusalem was the Temple of Solomon. A magnificent structure that was built as the principal place of worship for all of God's followers. This temple was started in the year 957BC and completed in just 7 years. It was a marvel of the world and a place where all of the Israelites would gather for worship and fellowship. Solomon's temple stood until roughly 586 BC when it was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar II as the Babylonians conquered God's people and forced them into exile.

When the Jews returned to Jerusalem after being set free by King Cyrus the Great in 538BC, they began to rebuild the Temple. This new temple stood for 500 years and served the people of Israel as the center of their faith. When King Herod took over the rulership of the area in around 47BC, the Temple was in disrepair due to the passage of time. In an attempt to gain favor with the Jews of the region King Herod offered to help repair and rebuild the Temple to its previous grandeur. It was with King Herod's help that in the year 18BC the work on the building the grand Temple that Jesus and the disciples visited began.



This temple of grandeur is the temple that the disciples visited with Jesus. It sat atop Mount Moriah and covered almost 1/6 the total landmass of the city of Jerusalem. It

was roughly 172 feet long and more than 20 stories high. It could be seen from miles away and became a landmark for all who passed through the area.

When you approached it closely the stonework which this disciple spoke of became evident. The stones were incredibly large, up to forty feet long, eighteen feet high and fifteen feet wide. They were hand cut from pure white limestone, each of them flawless and fit together with such perfection that it was said you could not even slide a piece of paper between the stones.

The doors, walls, and even the floors of the Temple were said to be adorned with gold and ornate jewels, carvings and other flourishes meant to cause the onlooker to be awed by the splendor. It was even claimed that if you were to look at the Temple as the sun was rising you would be blinded by the reflection of the light off the golden walls.

So, it is understandable why this disciple would comment on the splendor of the Temple.

#### **MARK 13:2**

**<sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”**

Which make the response that Jesus gives quite alarming? He tells the disciples that this wonder of the world and all of its splendor will be destroyed. Something which was to be fulfilled in the year 70AD when Titus, a Roman General, and his army conquered the city of Jerusalem. Titus ordered the Temple be preserved when he conquered Jerusalem, but after a fire allegedly started by one of his men, he ordered the temple be destroyed down to the last stone. The soldiers so intent on acquiring every last bit of gold that had melted in between the stones removed every single stone from the temple, and today at the sight not a single stone remains of the grand Temple which King Herod built.

This is part of the prophecy fulfilled.

#### **MARK 13:1-3**

**<sup>3</sup> And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup>And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against**

**kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.**

Now as they sit together on the Mount of Olives looking down over the city of Jerusalem and the splendor of the Temple, the disciples begin to seek some clarity on the prophecy that Jesus had given them as they walked out of the temple earlier that day.

The disciples are seeking the details about the destruction of the grand Temple, something which would seem incomprehensible to them. They want to know the facts. We all want to know the facts, anyone who has read the book of Revelation cannot help but wonder about the timing of the Second Coming and about the prophecies that it lays out within its pages.

In today's scripture Jesus does not give a clear answer to the when, however, he begins to lay out the prophecies and signs related to the end of times.

Jesus begins with a warning that they should not be led astray. This is something which is just as relevant today as it was to the disciples. We all need to be knowledgeable in our faith, we need to know and understand our doctrine so that we are not easily led astray by those who could lead us astray either intentionally or accidentally. The disciples who lived with Christ, they ones who shared meals with him, those who heard his every word in person, Jesus warned them of the possibility of being led astray. If he felt the need to warn them, I am confident that we should heed that warning as well.

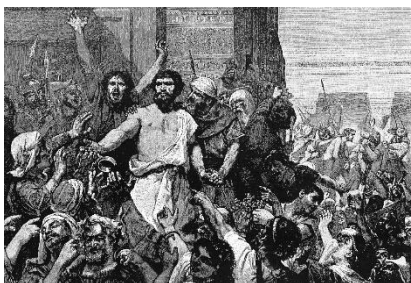
Jesus then explains who will try to lead his followers astray, primarily the false messiahs. He warns that many will come in his name, and some may actually appear and be claiming to be the Messiah. These false prophets who are prophesied to appear would lead Christians away from Christ throughout the ages. This was not anything new, in fact some of these false messiahs were alive even during the lifetime of Jesus.

In the books of Acts we are told of two of the false messiahs from the time before Jesus. We learn about them when the Jewish leaders are discussing what they should do about the rise of Christianity and the teachings of the disciples.

#### **ACTS 5:35-37**

**<sup>35</sup> And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup> For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.**

There was Theudus, a man who claimed that he could part the river, Jordan. He had about 400 followers whom he led to their deaths. The second was Judas the Galilean, who was a radical anti-Roman revolutionary. He was one of the leaders of the Zealot movement of Israelites that many young Jews were part of including the future disciple Simon the Zealot. Judas the Galilean too ended up leading all those who believed in him as the messiah to their deaths at the hands of the Roman Empire.



With the death of Jesus and the rise of Christianity in the world there have been multiple humans who have claimed to be Christ Returned or one of God's chosen prophets. Simon Bar-Kochba, a man who started a rebellion against Rome which lasted for close to three years claimed to be the Second Coming of Christ. His uprising resulted in the death of thousands and a harsh crackdown by the Roman authorities on both Jews and Christians with his passing.

Moses of Crete, was yet another man who claimed that he could part water just like was done during the Exodus in the scriptures. He claimed that he could part the Mediterranean Sea. He convinced his followers that he would part the water and they would be able to walk from the Isle of Crete to the land of Israel. Many of his followers drowned as he led them into the water to begin their journey.

In the early 1100's there was a prophet named Moses Al'Dar'l who convinced his followers that Jesus would return during Passover in the year 1127. He convinced them that they should be like the rich young man and sell all of their possessions, give them to the poor and become true followers of Christ. Passover came and went, and all his followers were left with was their own poverty. He left them to live in destitute while Moses moved on with the money he made.

More recently we have seen those who claim to either be the Messiah or prophets of the messiah and who have led and, in some cases, continue to lead people astray. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism claimed to have private information from God, which he used to write his Book of Mormon and start his Church in the 1820s. Charles Taze Russell, who is considered to be the forefather of the Jehovah Witnesses. Mary Baker Eddy, who started the Christian Science movement that has gained so much popularity among entertainers in recent years. Sun Myung Moon, a man who developed his own beliefs around the Christian faith and tried to play God himself with his followers. And who can forget Jim Jones and his Founder's temple. A man who led almost 1000 of his followers in a mass suicide less than 50 years ago



False prophets and false messiahs are a reality of human life and Jesus is warning both his disciples and any future follower of his that reads the scripture to be wary of these people. If you have read the book of Revelation, you should know that as the end of time approaches that there will be many more people who will claim special revelation from God, many who will claim to be prophets and many more who claim to be Christ returned. All Christians are called to be knowledgeable about scripture so that we are not easily tricked by these people and their ways of making us feel comfortable in the ways of the world by bending, twisting, and distorting God's word.



Next, we and informed we will hear of wars and rumors of wars. The reality is that war is very much part of the human experience throughout our history. War has been perpetrated by man upon fellow man since the beginning of time. Will Durant, an American Historian who spent the majority of his life studying human conflict, stated that in the 3,421 years of recorded human history there are only 268 years of peace, think about that, in the whole of recorded human history there are only 268 years where there is no recorded war. Remember that his information only takes into recorded wars, not the countless conflicts that have occurred throughout history which went unrecorded. So, Jesus's warning about war and the rumors of war should come as no surprise to anyone who studies human history.

The surprising thing is that we have not changed. In a world where we claim to have advanced technologies, we claim to have better communication, we claim to have more compassion and caring and empathy than at any other point in human history; wars still rage on in the world around us.

Jesus tells us these wars will happen, do not be alarmed. War is part of our reality and God will utilize war for his own ends and to bring about his own Glory. Man will constantly be at war either as kingdoms, nations, and peoples.

It is easy for us to become concerned about the Apocalypse, the ultimate end of the world every time we see nations gearing up for war. People were terrified during the Cold War, terrified with the thought of Weapons of Mass destruction and Iraq, terrified every time North Korea threatens the world with its wrath. These things scare each and every one of us, and Jesus here tells us to not be overly concerned with these wars, they are signs of a sovereign God preparing the world for His Second Coming.

Next, he explains that even nature will announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Earthquakes have been one of the most terrifying natural disasters that people have endured throughout world history. When they occur above ground the cause mass destruction of cities and the deaths of so many people. When they occur underwater they create Tsunami's that can shoot giant waves out over the shoreline killing hundreds of thousands of people in an instant.

In May of 1980 when Mt. St. Helens erupted in Montana. The eruption had a total energy output of 400 million tons of TNT, the equivalent of 20,000 of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima. The ash that was displaced by those eruptions caused an ashfall that took place at more than 250KM away. This is the power of nature, far beyond the destructive powers of even mans most feared weapons.



Since that time, we have seen hurricanes, eruptions and tornados that have wreaked havoc on human infrastructure, that have taken human life and that have cause fear and terror in the world. Jesus told us to expect these things, we should not be surprised, we should know that they are signs of his Second Coming and the truth is that they will continue to grow in strength and intensity as His Second Coming approaches.

Jesus does not stop there. He also warns that famines and starvation will become a reality for many. Did you know that in the world today someone dies of starvation every 3.6 seconds? Every year approximately 1.5 million children will die of starvation. Right now, in this loving, compassionate and empathetic world in which we live, where people in the western world are arguing about pronouns and claiming offense at the more irrelevant of things; there are people dying because of inadequate nutrition or a lack of clean water. This world definitely has its priorities backwards, its estimated that one in eight people in the world is undernourished and we call could be doing better at bringing help to these people both within our own communities and countries, as well as abroad.

Yet Jesus tells us to now be surprised by these things, famines are part of the signs of the return of Christ and as his return gets closer, we should expect famines and starvation to increase in its intensity.

These are all truths of the world we live in, war, famine, and natural disasters. They all take place in this world, and they all claim the livelihoods and lives of people who are both Christian and Non-Christian. Jesus did not hesitate to tell the disciples that these things would be part of our world, not only part of it, but that these would become more common as the end of times and His Second Coming approached.

Yet, He ends it on an especially important note. All of these indicators that the end of times is near, are just indicators, we cannot really know when the end will come. Jesus tells his most trusted disciples that these disasters, these wars, these famines are just the beginning of the sorrows the world will know. Jesus told them that all these signs would come before the Second Coming, and then explained that while they were signs, they were not definitively the key sign that his return was imminent.

Jesus uses the phrase ‘the beginning of the birth pangs.’ The initial contractions that every woman who has given birth to a child knows. These beginning contractions for some women are very painful and can last for hours or even days. Once they begin everyone knows that the child is coming, they know that the child will be born, but no one knows the precise time of when the child will enter the world.

This is the reality of the return of Jesus, once the world begins to experience all of these birth pangs more frequently, we know that the Second Coming is approaching, but we cannot tell you when it will happen.

#### **ACTS 1:9-11**

**<sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”**

However, the return of Jesus is guaranteed. The Angels at his ascension told us he will return. This is promised to us, and the book of revelation explains the prophecy of what will happen in regard to His glorious return to Earth. But we cannot now and nor will anyone ever be able to tell you exactly when the Second Coming will occur or the end of the world will begin.

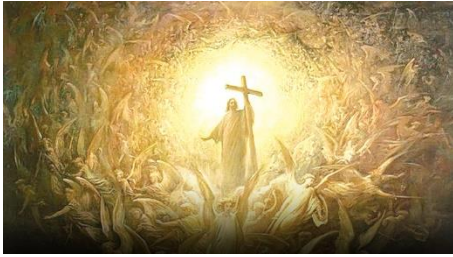
Jesus himself tells in the book of Matthew.

#### **Matthew 24: 36-42**

**<sup>36</sup> “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> 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, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.**

We cannot know when Jesus will return, and it is for this reason we cannot be led astray. It is for this reason that we should ensure we are maintaining our spiritual health, feeding our faith, and ensuring we are living a Christ like life. We need to live our lives working like His return will never take place within our lifetime, building the Church and bringing others to His grace. Looking after our families, friends, and strangers; both

Christians and non-Christians, ensuring that we all have what we need to live in this world. Loving our neighbors as ourselves.



Yet, at the same time we need to live everyday like he could appear at any moment. Knowing that wars, natural disaster, and famines are continuous, that the birth pangs are constant, and His Second Coming could happen at any moment. We need to be embedded in our faith, seeking out Christ in all we do, seeking to bring others to Him as we were

instructed in the Great commandment. Placing God first in our lives loving him with all we are, heart, souls, mind, and strength.

We are called to live our lives at all times as Christians, aware that Jesus could appear at any moment and the end of times would be upon us. We should not be debating what the signs are, or when Jesus should return. We should not be caught up thinking about all the worldly things that we could be doing instead of following Christ. We should not be caught up in anything but serving Him and His kingdom at all times, in all we do. We should not be looking for the signs of His return, but instead we should be looking forward to the return of our Savior.

Jesus is coming. When he returns there will be a terrible time of tribulation. The world will be thrown into Chaos. Millions will die to war, disease, starvations, plagues, and natural disasters. The book of Revelation is full of the prophecies, and the only way to be exempt from these tribulations is to be a faithful servant of Christ. That knowledge should be a wakeup call for any who are hesitant in their faith.

Are you ready for the return of Christ? Are you ready to face your own death, which could come at any moment? Or how about the rapture which could happen just as suddenly? Have you set aside your pride, your selfish ways, your selfish desires and repented of your life of sin? Do you believe the Gospel and that you can be saved by faith alone and are you dedicating yourself to Christ in all you do?

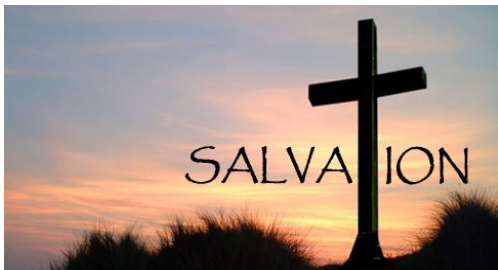
If you have Jesus will save you. After all we are all saved by our Faith.

### **JOHN 3:16-18**

**<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**



God sent Jesus to save us from the end of times. To give us eternal life and all it requires is our belief in Him. All we need to do is belief in God and be ready for his return.



Do not be deceived by the false prophets, by the false messiahs, by the false teachers. Study your bible, spend time in prayer, in fellowship with other Christians. Love your Lord with everything you are and serve your fellow man. The return is real and no one, no one at all, can tell you when it will happen, so be ready every day, everywhere

you go and in everything you do.

Let us pray,

**We Thank You for All Your Benefits**

*Lord God, heavenly Father,  
we thank you for all your benefits.  
You have given us body and life  
and have graciously sustained us to this day.  
Do not take your blessing from us.  
Preserve us from greed,  
that we may serve you only,  
love you and abide in you  
and not defile ourselves by idolatrous love  
of wealth or goods,  
but hope and trust only in your grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Trinity 15**

**Hymn #206 (green): “There is a Redeemer”**

There is a redeemer  
Jesus, God's own Son  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah  
Holy One

When I stand in Glory  
I will see His face  
And there I'll serve my King forever

In that Holy Place

Thank you, oh my father  
 For giving us Your Son  
 And leaving Your Spirit  
 'Til the work on Earth is done

### Invitation to Offering

*Give to the Lord the glory due his name;  
 bring an offering and come before him.*  
**We will sacrifice a thank offering to God  
 and call on the name of the Lord.**  
**We will fulfill our vows to the Lord,  
 in the presence of all God's people.**  
*Let each of us use whatever gift we have received,  
 faithfully sharing God's grace in many forms.*  
**Freely we have received; freely we will give.**

### Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer.

**E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. [standrewspert offering@gmail.com](mailto:standrewspert offering@gmail.com) Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.**

### Offertory Prayer

*Merciful Father, we offer  
 with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—  
 our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love. Receive them for  
 the sake of him who offered himself for us—  
 Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

### Closing Hymn #306 (green): "Jesus Saves"

We have heard the joyful sound:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Spread the tidings all around:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Bear the news to ev'ry land,  
 Climb the steeps and cross the waves;  
 Onward! 'tis our Lord's command;  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Waft it on the rolling tide:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Tell to sinners far and wide:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Sing, ye islands of the sea;  
 Echo back, ye ocean caves;  
 Earth shall keep her jubilee:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Sing above the battle strife:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 By His death and endless life:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Sing it softly through the gloom,  
 When the heart for mercy craves;  
 Sing in triumph o'er the tomb:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Give the winds a mighty voice:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Let the nations now rejoice:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
 Shout salvation full and free,  
 Highest hills and deepest caves;  
 This our song of victory:  
 Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

### **Pastoral Prayer**

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
 we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks  
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
 to us and to all whom you have made.  
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
 and all the blessings of this life,*

*but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but  
in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

### **Benediction**

*May God himself,  
the God who makes everything holy and whole,  
make you holy and whole,  
put you together—spirit, soul, and body—  
and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. Amen*