

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Sunday 29th November

"Jesus is Coming"



“During the days after this trouble comes, ‘The sun will grow dark. And the moon will not give its light. The stars will fall from the sky. And everything in the sky will be changed.’ “Then people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. The Son of Man will send his angels all around the earth. They will gather his chosen people from every part of the earth.

“The fig tree teaches us a lesson: When its branches become green and soft, and new leaves begin to grow, then you know that summer is near. So also when you see all these things happening, then you will know that the time is near, ready to come. I tell you the truth. All these things will happen while the people of this time are still living. The whole world, earth and sky, will be destroyed, but the words I have said will never be destroyed.

“No one knows when that day or time will be. The Son and the angels in heaven don’t know. Only the Father knows. Be careful! Always be ready! You don’t know when that time will be. It is like a man who goes on a trip. He leaves his house and lets his servants take care of it. He gives each servant a special job to do. One servant has the work of guarding the door. The man tells this servant always to be watchful. This is what I am now telling you. You must always be ready. You don’t know when the owner of the house will come back. He might come in the evening, or at midnight, or in the early morning, or when the sun rises. He might come back quickly. If you are always ready, then he will not find you sleeping. I tell you this, and I say this to everyone: ‘Be ready!’”

Mark 13:24-37

In our Gospel reading today Jesus was talking about the end of all things. He spoke of some rather frightening signs and warnings, things like the sun, moon, and stars failing, and times of trouble. But in the midst of that doom and gloom, there is a beautiful and hopeful promise. For one thing, Jesus promised that He would return, and when that happens, he'll take us to Heaven! That's a joyful thought. He also said that even if Heaven and Earth pass away, His words never will. All things will change (Sometimes very quickly, as we've learned this year!). But the Word of God will last forever. We can count on it! We can rejoice in the hope that God's word continues, and that He keeps His promises. We can rejoice and be excited for the return of Jesus. And when will that happen? Well, we don't know. Some people say it's coming very soon, and that might be nice! But we really don't know. Because of that, we need to be ready all the time. We've had a lot of big changes recently, and there will likely be more. We've had to be ready for anything. And that's how it is with the return of Christ. The Gospel says to "stay awake!" Pay attention, don't drift away from faith, because He could come at any moment. Being ready means that we keep loving and serving God, and we eagerly expect that His words will prove true. In this season of change and confusion, we cling to that. This week we begin our celebration of Advent. Do you know what Advent means? It means "coming." We remember happily how Jesus came as a baby, and what He did for us. But we also look forward to His return, to His eventual Second Coming. So no matter what happens, even as stores open and close or plans alter or we have to expect the unexpected, we can put our hope in expecting Jesus, now and forever. Be prepared! He's coming! God lets us be part of His plan to serve people. He sends people our way who need God's care, and then we have opportunities to help them. Sometimes this means giving to people who don't have much. Sometimes it means just showing someone that we are willing to listen if they need to talk, or saying a kind word to someone who is sad. We know that all people are made in God's image. They all belong to God! There are chances around us all the time to love and serve Jesus. We are special agents of His work. We can be joyful and hopeful about His eventual return, and meanwhile we love Him and His people!


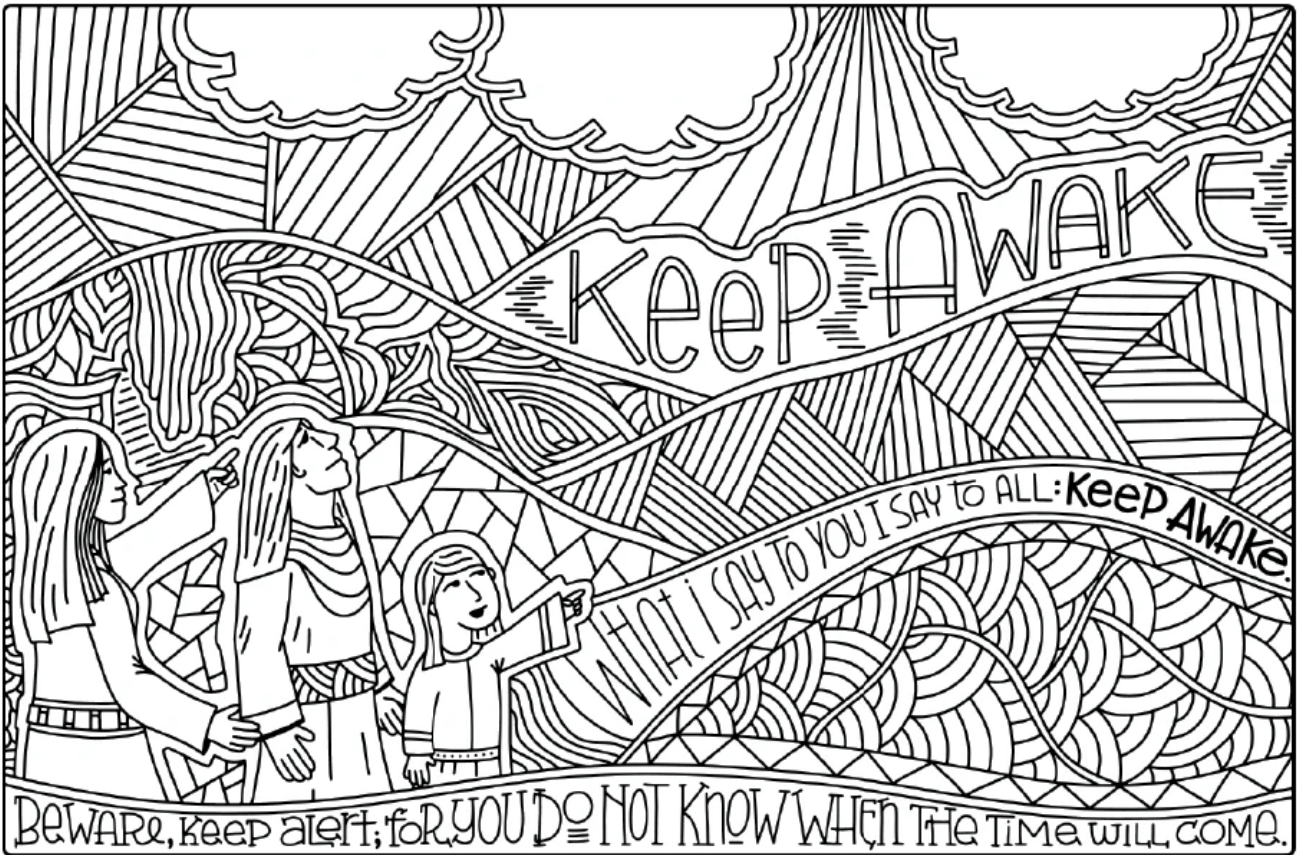


Pray

Dear God,

Thank you for the hope of Christ's return
Thank you that your Word will never pass away
Help us to trust in you
Even when things are hard and uncertain
Thank you for your love
In Jesus name, Amen!

S	A	T	S	D	N	I	W	I	B	DISTRESS
T	T	R	D	L	E	G	E	R	Y	DAYS
R	E	A	A	E	E	N	I	R	O	MOON
A	Y	S	R	S	U	G	O	F	L	STARS
S	A	T	K	S	H	L	N	I	G	BRIGHTNESS
G	D	O	E	T	G	A	N	A	M	ANGELS
I	I	S	N	O	O	M	K	L	O	WINDS
W	F	E	E	I	R	T	H	E	N	WORLD
T	S	E	D	L	R	O	W	O	N	FIG
S	S	E	R	T	S	I	D	L	O	TREE
										TWIGS
										SUN

KEEP AWAKE – Mark 13:24-37