

## Luke 21:25-38

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.' Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation for the coming of Christ.  
In the first week of Advent we celebrate hope.

*How does the incarnation of Christ – the birth of Jesus as a human person – offer you hope?*

*How does Jesus come to you, day by day? How/where do you find hope?*

The temple was central to Jewish life and worship. Salvation (forgiveness and wholeness) was extended to Jewish people through God's presence in the temple.

*How do we receive and experience the salvation Christ brings?*

In the Bible, clouds are a metaphor for communication between heaven and earth.

We don't know what is referred to exactly in the phrase 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud'?

*How do we live as followers of Christ to help build the kingdom of heaven, now and in the future?*