

THE HOPE JOURNAL

LEARNING TO LOVE, TOGETHER

November 16, 2025



LIGHT

our invitation in the midst of darkness

by Drew Downs

When Daylight Saving Time ended last week, we were greeted to a suddenly early darkness. My family gathers around the dinner table and keeps wondering why we're eating in the middle of the night, only to discover it's merely 6:00. The coming winter (and the surprising snow!) often arrives with sudden force, it shocks us; awake to the reality — a reality we know. And make a habit of forgetting. Letting go. For the joy of the sun, rebirth, new life.

The church has long matched this feeling of our world to our relationship to the divine. To our common story. And even our purpose. So that we can see something in both.

The darkness is growing; it progresses, feels oppressive. But rather than hibernate until spring, we're invited into the experience of it as present, not forever. We are alive now, called to live and grow, with others, sharing, preparing for longer days.

ORDINARY TIME

2025

WHAT'S GOING ON

*"You know we've got to find a way
To bring some loving here today".*

-Marvin Gaye

Disciples, Apostles, and Saints!

Social Creativity

I'm so excited to share with you an opportunity to partner with our neighbors at Central Presbyterian for a pre-Advent painting party this Sunday. It is a chance for people of all ages to come together at a time when we separation is normal, fear is easy, and commitments take real work. I am delighted to be able to partner with our neighbors with anticipation for the season to come! Check out the announcement from Central below:

With love,
Drew+

Social Creativity:
Bearing the Light Community Painting Party

Nov 16th 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Light is precious this time of year. It warms our hearts with its golden hues. All ages plan to come and paint using canvas and gouache paint. Korinne Cantin will guide our creative expression. She is a gifted art teacher with ability to make art accessible to everyone. Join together with our church community and our sisters and brothers from St. Stephen's to create beautiful paintings. Materials will be provided. Light finger foods will be served to help the creative process. We look forward to gathering to share art, life and light. Please RSVP by emailing Joy Sutter joy@thcpc.org

ORDINARY TIME

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FOR SUNDAY

Proper 28C

November 16, 2025

Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Reading

Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand

ORDINARY TIME

you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

Reflection

We end the liturgical year and begin the next with the theme of trial, death, and transformation. And seeing how it happens the weeks before and after Thanksgiving, it just always hits different. Because we want to speak of gratitude and then we read Jesus talking about the destruction of the Temple and persecution. Come on, Jesus! Can't we have these few weeks? Sorry, Friends! No can do!

Look at those last lines, though. Not even "a hair of your head" will go. Your endurance is the game. Perhaps we aren't in this for the suffering, but for something greater.

At times of brutality and discouragement, when the sun begins to fade so quickly, our focus on the trouble blinds us to the possible, and we focus less on what we're in it for and more on what we stand to lose. And rather than sugarcoat it all and give the false impression that there won't be any problems, Jesus gives us the reminder that none of this is the point — living is the point. And not just living, but *eternal life*, which is vibrant living in the Kin-dom! That is the point. Our purpose, friends, is to live and love and despite what comes, we carry on with this as our work. Serving in Jesus's Way of Love is to live in love and, in so doing, finding ourselves always alive to the very love of God.

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