

Twenty-Fifth Week of Pentecost



The Lihu'e Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawai'i

Ka Hale Pule 'O Na Lahui Apau . . .

Church Of All Peoples . . .

. . . Hele Pu Makou me Iesu Kristo

. . . Walking Together With Christ

November 14, 2021

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Welcome to Our Guests

It is always a joy to share our faith and worship with people visiting from around the world. Please know your presence and participation in our service is most appreciated. At Lihue Lutheran we celebrate Holy Communion at every service. You are certainly welcome in joining us as our Lord comes to us in this holy meal.

Prayer Concerns

Please remember these people in your prayers during the week: The family of Amanda Thayer , Bob & Joann Clash, Sally Rasay, Linda Garrett, Stan Weeks, Ronnie Pacheco, Pagatpatan ohana, Villanueva ohana, Geronimo ohana, David Gragg, Joe Morgan, Zosimo and Virginia Austria, Karen Kinoshita, Jake Whisenhunt, Rick Rentz, Norman Dibble, Kazue Zaima, Virginia Hines-Aflague, John Mattek, Giraldo II (Bobby Giraldo's son), Kristie Schmid (Tony's sister), Lolli Hagen, Abraham Torres, Sr., Kristy Kahananui, Sonny Koerte, Uncle Joe, Mallory Rodriguez, Steve Schantz, Peter Alisna, Tirzah Pope, Pastor Matthew Weber, Joyce Anglemeyer, Stephen Shioi, Peggy Hood, Jason Shimono, Richard Rasay, Nancy Nelson (formely Mandell), Karen & Patrick Pavao, Edward Rasay, Karen Richards (friend of Nancy Mandell), Marcos Larson (Liedeke's son), Dora Jane Rowell, Franklin Parraga, Penny Parraga, Leticia Ancog (Kurt Javinar's sister), Yvonne Shinseki, Al Dressler (Larry's Father), Shirley Hallman (Denese Alcott's Mother), Mercy Ballesteros, Mike LaBerge, Anna Marie & Phil Croghan, Judy Carlson, Caroline Johnson, Sheila Belarmino, Ray Roderick, The Church Council, and leaders in the ELCA. If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know. "*Ask it in my name . . .*" Mahalo for your love.

Remembering Our Military

As we gather for worship, please remember those serving us in the military, and the families of our Hawai'i National Guard. These names have been given by loved ones and family members: Navy – TJ, Javinar, Kristian Matsumoto, Coast Guard - Brian Rodriguez, Navy - Kiana Alisna, Coast Guard - Ke'ale Renta Army - Jason Lumacad, Levi Fajardo: Air Force - Steven Javinar, Ikaika Fajardo, Army - Brandon Perkinson, Drew Cox, Tony Garton: National Guard - Benji MacKenzie, Eddie Resinto, Fred Casticimo, Philip Kamakea, Anthony Y. Torres, Master Sgt. If you know of someone you would like added to our prayer list, please advise the church office.

Lihue Lutheran Spotlight

We welcome Gail Kiyomura and her husband to the island of Kauai and our home here at Lihue Lutheran. Gail joins us as the Vice-President of the Sierra Pacific Synod Council. We have the privilege of having her as our lector and assisting minister today. Please be sure to introduce yourself to her and show her aloha!



Introduction

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

Overview

Real Strength in Community of Faith

What makes something strong? Is steel strong because of its ability to withstand stress from many directions? Is wood strong because of its ability to absorb impact while remaining intact? Is the material of a spider's web strong because of its tensile strength-to-weight ratio? Things are strong for many reasons. The temple in Jerusalem was thought to be stronger and more permanent than anything, yet Jesus says in Mark, "Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down" (Mark 13:2). Jesus shows hearers that true strength is not built upon the oppression of widows (Mark 12:41-44).

Many of the world's most prized structures are built on the shoulders of the poor and oppressed. How many homes in poorer areas of cities have been destroyed by the need for a new or wider highway? How many workers living in poverty died building the Golden Gate or Brooklyn Bridges, the Hoover Dam or the Empire State Building? In order for human beings to build structures of great strength, they must rely on sacrifice and compromise. Can any human standard of strength be achieved without making something else weak?

Real strength, however, is not shown in things built by human hands. Real strength is found in the hands themselves. True strength is shown in workers reporting to work day after day in impossible conditions because it's the only way to feed their family. It is shown by an entire community of God's people linking their trembling hands as they share the "confession of our hope without wavering" (Heb. 10:23). The new, true temple, Jesus' faithful strength, succumbs in weakness to human-made nails. While the nails lie rusting away, the wounded hands and body rise again to break bread with all on the journey down the path of life.

Movie Suggestion

These verses from Mark are better understood in the context of what comes before and after. Mark's Jesus has already pointed out the systemic ills of the time and place in which he lives. The Roman government and temple leaders oppress the people. Widows are robbed of their living; their households are devoured. In today's reading, when the disciples remark on the enormity of the temple, Jesus teaches that the buildings will be destroyed. He goes on to speak of evil times of hardship. Then, following in verses 9-13 (not included in today's reading), Jesus teaches the people how to live during times of persecution: "The good news must first be proclaimed to all nations" (Mark 13:10).

Announcements and Weekly Events!

Welcome, Check-In, and Announcements

In the Facebook chatbox share something good God is doing in your life.

Announcements

- ◇ **Advent** begins November 28
- ◇ **Advent Happy Hour**—join us for finger foods, beer, and a spiritual practice **Dec 1**
- ◇ Deck the Halls **December 4**, 9am-4pm

Weekly Events

- ◇ Youth Group
Sunday, Nov 14, 5:30-7pm in the fellowship hall
- ◇ Ghetto Sweet Tarts
Monday, Nov 15, 5-8:30 (Bowling!!!!)
- ◇ BOBS Bible Study—The Forgotten Luther (6-week study)
Tuesday, Nov 16, @ 5:30-7pm in the fellowship hall **last week!**
ADVENT STUDY, Begins Tues, Nov 30, “The Christmas We Didn’t Expect”
- ◇ Centering Prayer with Liedeke Bulder
Saturday, Nov 20, @ 9-10am via zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9079773456>

Twenty-Fifth Week of Pentecost

Order for Worship

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C **We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

P God who makes all things new, forgives you all your sins for ✝ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the Kingdom of God.

C Amen.



*Gathering Song

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

*The Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

*Kyrie

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C

Congregation

Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl



Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son. Chri-ste e - le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-



le-i-son, e - le-i-son, e - le-i-son.

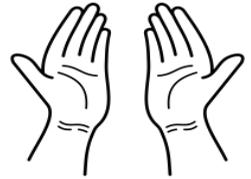
- P For peace between nations, compassion among peoples, and harmony in the Church, let us pray. **(Refrain)**
- P For the hungry to be filled, the lowly lifted up, and the captives to be freed, let us pray. **(Refrain)**
- P For patience in our suffering, hope in our waiting, and all joy in believing, let us pray. **(Refrain)**
- P Help, save, comfort and defend us, O God



A - - - men.

*Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray. Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.**



First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who

sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 16

My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;**

indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11-25

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ’s death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God’s promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them

after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began

to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Keiki Sermon

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day

Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - or to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

*Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together in reciting the Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.



He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*The Prayers of the Church

P Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A God our creator, you show us the path of life. Bless faithful people everywhere with humility as they extend compassion to those who have experienced harm in religious spaces. Cultivate healthy congregations that tell of and enact your reconciling love. God, in your mercy,

C your mercy is great.

A God our constant, you love our universe from beginning to end. As the seasons change, protect animals that migrate and hibernate. Bring them safely to a sheltered place and a more abundant season. God, in your mercy,

C your mercy is great.

A God our ruler, you write your law on human minds and hearts. Give wisdom to all elected leaders and officials to govern with insight and compassion. Make them mindful of the well-being of all people so that your world will flourish. God, in your mercy,

C your mercy is great.

A God our stronghold, you are present amid disaster. We pray for those affected by natural disasters. Come to the aid of all survivors of earthquakes, famines, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and the first responders who support them. Calm their fear, supply their need, and be the solid ground beneath their feet. God, in your mercy,

C your mercy is great.

A God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine. Surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ. God, in your mercy,

C your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God our beginning and our end, your beloved people shine like the brightness of the sky. We thank you for the lives of all who rest in your eternal mercy, from famous saints to the people we have loved: Franklin, Sioux, and Obie. Assure us of your resurrection promise. God, in your mercy,

C your mercy is great.

P God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen**The Queen's Prayer*

Piano

O kou a - lo - ha no A i - a i ka La - ni, A
 No - lai - la e ka - Haku Ma - la - lo kou e - he - u, Ko

6

Pno

o kou oi - a i - o, He he - mo - le - le hoi
 ma - kou ma - lu - hi - a, A mau loa a - ku no. A - me - ne.

English Translation

1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy,
 Is high as the Heavens.
 It tells us of thy truth.
 And 'tis filled with holiness

3. For thy grace I beseech thee.
 Bring us 'neath thy protection.
 And peace will be thy portion
 Now and forever

The Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share the peace of the Lord with those here locally and those joining us online via Facebook live! As the ushers come forward, take a minute to share "Aloha" with those joining us online!



Offertory Word

If God puts it on your heart to give, donations can be given here today, mailed in, or given online our website [here](#) or you can copy and paste the weblink below @



https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?a_pver3=tYgT1GfNxRUIIdiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3

Offertory Response

Lord of Aloha

God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,

5 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

9 Auth - or of mer - cy, Giv - er of grace, Bles - sed Re - deem - er who died in our place, Fath - er of one O

14 ha - na are you, Lift - ing our voic - es we sing "Al - le - lu" Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

19 God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,

23 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

27 Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

**Offertory Prayer*

- P Let us pray. Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

**The Words of Institution*

(All are welcome to share in this meal with us. The sacraments are provided in accordance to synodical guidelines in collaboration with CDC, state, and local precautions. If you do not have sacraments, please raise your hand and an usher will bring them to you.)

**The Lord's Prayer*

- P Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught us to pray...
- C **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 for give us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**



**The Post-Communion Blessing*

- P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
- C **Amen.**

**The Prayer After Communion*

- P Blessed Jesus, at this table you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your Heavenly banquet.
- C **Amen.**

*The Blessing

P God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life,
 † bless you and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forever more.
 C Amen.

*The Sending Song

On Our Way Rejoicing

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment line in the lower staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,
hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Dismissal

P Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

Faith is at its foundation about trust

Everything you do is a matter of faith. How you treat your friends, how you talk to your family, or your neighbor, or the person you dislike in your community. Faith is first and foremost about what we know. More importantly, faith is about what we do with what we know. God has given us a path and filled it with many opportunities and possibilities. Often times, there is no “right” way but there certainly are “wrong” ways.

If we take a look at the text in Daniel, we see that there are paths that may lead one to shine “like the stars in the sky” and there are other paths that lead to “shame and everlasting contempt.” It comes down to what paths we choose.

If we turn to the Gospels, we learn that the path that leads to destruction is wide. Not only is it wide, it’s often times easy. In other words, it takes no energy or effort to go down this path, to “go-with-the-flow”. In comparison, the pathway of faith is sometimes difficult. This is why 1 Peter 4:12 says, “When hard times come upon you, do not sit and question, as though something weird is happening.” 2 Tim 3:12 reminds us, “If anyone wants to live a Godly life in Christ, they should expect great resistance”, or difficulty that may include persecution.

Who we trust and where we put our hope will influence and affect which path(s) we choose to take. The book of Daniel is all about pathways. The people of God did not trust the Lord and turned aside to other paths. As Psalm 16:3 says, “They put their trust in other gods.” What happened is that this led to their destruction AND exile. In Daniel, our four main characters, Daniel, Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego are the first wave of captives who are taken to Babylon as a result of corruption and sin. The thrust of the book of Daniel centers on this question of faithfulness. In a foreign land, in exile, will God’s people be faithful to the one true King or will they bow down, turn away, and go down another path.

We might not see many similarities between what is going on in our lectionary today and our contemporary context, but the question facing God’s people is one that continually faces us: in our everyday lives, in difficult seasons, in good seasons, will we remain faithful to God or will we turn away? Will we go down another path? Who, what, and where will we place our faith, hope, and trust?

For Further Reflection

TV Show

Perhaps the Canadian sitcom *Schitt's Creek* became so wildly popular during the pandemic because its characters were experiencing a version of what we all experienced in March 2020—the whole world collapsed into four walls, and many social connections were immediately severed. The love and purpose the Rose family discovered in small-town exile from their former life of extravagant wealth can be a model of resurrection life. We lost so much to the coronavirus. But what signs of life are emerging in the newly created space that is hollowed out by loss? After the tears subside, what are the glimpses of new heaven and new earth that we could not have embraced without the loss of much that came before?

Connections with Creation

Psalm 24 set alongside the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead tells us that God has authority over all aspects of creation, from life to death. The psalmist declares that “the earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it” (v. 1), while Jesus’ command for the dead to rise puts human efforts to dominate nature in perspective. As much as we have attempted to gain mastery over land, water, animals, insects, other humans, and the very processes of life, our hubris has often done more harm than good. Even as we mourn those who have died—and especially those whose deaths resulted from injustice, violence, and ill health due to environmental conditions—we proclaim God’s vindication and draw courage from Jesus to face the tombs of our time. We declare that the Alpha and Omega dwells with us and among us.

Let The Children Come

All Saints Sunday is a day for remembering. Maybe people bring photos of loved ones who have died. Maybe in worship you read the names of all those who died in the past year. We need to take time to remember those who have gone before us. But children probably need to know a little more than a name or a face. Children build resilience when they hear stories about who they are and where they come from. Is there a narrative about your congregation that hasn’t been told in a while? Who are the saints who first envisioned your congregation? They had flaws and faults, but they also did a brave and beautiful thing. Maybe knowing both those things will be grace for the journey for the children and the adults of your congregation.

Consideration

Veterans Day is this week, and it is important to find ways to mark the losses of life and wholeness due to wars. Even and especially in faith communities that resist war and violence, we are called to care for those whose bodies and spirits have been broken by their time in armed service. Journalist Sebastian Junger offers insight into the challenges for veterans to reintegrate in society in his book *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* (New York: Hachette, 2016). Consider creating space for one or more veterans to give honest testimony on their service and what it has cost them. If you do not have veterans in your worshiping community, inquire with a local homeless shelter—veterans are disproportionately represented on the streets.

Worship Reflection

What biblical texts stood out to me and why?

What do I feel God is trying to say to me in and through this sermon?

Is the Holy Spirit prompting me to change something in my heart or life? If yes, what is it? What is one step I can take to make a positive change in my life this week?

Where did I see/hear God in the sermon?
