**Paying attention to the signs.** 14 November 2021.

1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 **Mark 13:1-8**

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP: Let us rejoice and give thanks for this day, as we welcome   
  
PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, to ask you to be present with us is like a bird asking for the air to be present under its wings.   
You are, always have been and always will be with us in ways so much deeper than our knowing.  
Like the sun lights the sky, like the oceans surround the earth, like breath fills our lungs you are with us and in us.  
Thanks be to God!

Hymn 1

Children’s talk: Steve

PRAYER OF CONFESSION   
Today, God of infinite patience, we seek that patience.  
We who act as if we know what is going on, we who are so sure of being right.  
We need your graciousness.  
We do not know as much as we like to think. We do not hear all that we should. We do not see as far as we need to.  
We are so limited.  
Forgive us. Forgive us for arrogant knowledge. Forgive us for the damage our arrogance and certainty does to others and to ourselves.  
Forgive us for not being humbled by the glories of your world every morning and the complex beauty of it every night.  
Forgive us we pray, for not resting in the great mystery of your love. Amen.

Reading Mark 13 1-8: Barry

Paying attention to the signs. Chris

Hymn 2.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

God is giving gifts to His world in every moment. Let us in turn live and give generously, perhaps through the giving of our time, or through direct debit, or a gift of money in the collection box in the foyer. In this way we provide for ministry and service to the people of our town and beyond.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all life, may the money we give here, the energy and time we give in our lives, be a sign to us that you are with us, you are in us, and you want to love through us. In the name of Christ, your great gift to all the world. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God, Jesus’s disciples longed to know what was going to happen and when.  
We often long for the same.  
All of us know that anything might happen in our lives at any time but for some, the uncertainty of what might happen next is a daily, hourly concern that overwhelms with anxiety and disconnection  
Today we pray for all who live in dread and in trepidation.  
We pray for all those in our community who cannot rely on the routine of their lives;  
those who live in insecure housing, those who live in broken relationships in which violence can flare at any moment, those who must live from poorly paid shifts,  
those for whom surprise and the unknown is experienced only as shock and fear. We pray for a world, not where everything is predictable, but where every individual and family can live in dignity and in the care of the world community.  
We pray that we might care for each other as you care for us.  
Amen.

Hymn 3.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

The regenerating earth is a sign of God’s love.  
The hospitality of the faithful community is a sign of God’s generosity.  
The Scriptures we have heard are a sign of God’s continued presence with us.   
The prayers of this day are a sign of God’s hope within us.

Let us go today to be signs to ourselves of God’s love, signs to each other of God’s grace, and signs to our communities of God’s justice.  
Amen.