Watching and Waiting

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus speaks to His disciples about events that will happen in their lifetime and at His return at the end of time. Knowing His own death was near, He wanted to prepare them for what lay ahead.

Jesus warned that the Temple would be destroyed, His followers would face persecution, people would falsely claim to be Him, and there would be wars and natural disasters.

This shocked the disciples because the Temple was so important to their faith and national identity. Yet in AD 70, the Romans destroyed it. Christians also faced terrible persecution, and throughout history there have been wars, disasters and people claiming to know when the world will end.

What about today? We see many troubles around us: conflict between nations, persecution of Christians; increasing crime; earthquakes, floods, storms and other natural disasters. These events can make the future seem uncertain and frightening.

But Jesus tells us not to be deceived or afraid. He does not give us a date for His return. Instead, He calls us to stay spiritually awake, keep our eyes fixed on Him, pray, trust His promises and remain faithful.

Just as new leaves tell us that summer is approaching, the events happening around us remind us that God's kingdom is coming.

Until then, we live in a time of waiting, watching and hoping. We can face the future because our lives are in God's hands and Jesus has promised to be with us always.

As we share communion, we remember Jesus' great love and the sacrifice He made for us. In this meal we are reminded that He is with us, walking alongside us each day.

So, Jesus encourages us to lift our heads because our redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28). Rather than allowing the troubles of the world to fill us with fear, we are encouraged to look forward with hope.