

CCMC Weekly 52
November 21, 2016

Dear Christ Community,

Driving down to Arkansas with my family contains life lessons. One is about patience during a long drive. The other is that I kind of like being stuck with people, available to talk to them but also with silence as a perfectly acceptable option. I notice that there are fields with corn still in it and I ask my dad about the lateness of their harvest. He says the conditions have been good but some farmers procrastinate. He says his dad always had corn in the fields up through January and it used to embarrass him. It somehow made me happy to think that the corn doesn't expire or rot out there, that it's not too late. We pass St. Louis and I see the little skyline and the arch, and I remember visiting it as a child and thinking the town was called Archville. I also remember as I am grateful to be able to travel, that this is stolen land, occupied country. I live where the Illiniwek nation used to reside. And so it is with this mindfulness and memory, acknowledgement of our history of oppression, family stories, and self-reflection that I make this pilgrimage for my family. I invoke the love and faith of my ancestors today, glad for those who have come before. I feel thankful that our Creator has given this rainy day, that I have been kept safe thus far. May each of you find your way through this holiday with thoughtful and joyful peace.

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LAST SUNDAY

We're read Colossians 1:11-21 (read it here:<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201:11-20>)

In this scripture Paul talks about how our strength and patience come from God who rescue, redeems, and reconciles with us. To connect with that scripture we went through a meditative process where we thought of examples of these concepts in our own lives. We invigorate scripture with our stories. Then the Christology that follows in the second part of the passage supports the way God works in our lives. Paul describes how Christ has been creatively divine as God from the beginning, leading us. Our task as believers is to connect our lives with the scripture as we sharpen our attunement to the Holy Spirit.

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NEXT SUNDAY

Matthew 24:36-44

24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

24:42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

24:43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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STUDY QUESTIONS

- What day and hour do you think they are talking about?
- How were the days of Noah?
- Who will be taken somewhere and where will they be taken?
- Who will be left and why will they be left behind?
- What does it mean about the Lord coming?
- How do you feel about the thief metaphor?

Love,
Amy