

**Sunday, March 13, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – Luke 13:31-35  
“Under the Wings”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “Who do you know that you would identify as having a comforting presence? How does that person demonstrate comfort?”

**Luke 13:31-35 Context.** Following his temptation in the desert, Jesus began his ministry in the region of Galilee. Eventually he headed for Jerusalem and what he knew would be the end of his mission. Luke plays up Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem, and several of the best known Lucan parables (the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son) are told “on the road.” In this week’s reading, Jesus is warned to flee Herod Antipas (the son of Herod the Great of the Christmas story) who ruled the region of Galilee. Herod Antipas lived a life of luxury and excess and was denounced by John the Baptist – whom Antipas had executed. Luke does not tell us why Herod wanted to kill Jesus; perhaps he was motivated by Jesus’ connection to John the Baptist, or perhaps by the fear of anyone who could attract a following (his first act had been to put down a rebellion after his father died). Antipas will resurface in the story of the trial of Jesus. For his part, Jesus responds to the warning by saying that nothing will get in the way of his mission that must end in Jerusalem with his death. He laments over Jerusalem, and foretells the destruction of the city (“see, your house is left for you”).

**Read Luke 13:31-35**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read Luke 13:31-35 again.**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- When Jesus refers to Herod as a fox, he does not mean that in the sense we might note someone as “foxy.” This is a fox as in someone who is a deceiver or duplicitous.
- When the Pharisees suggest that Jesus should leave, how does Jesus’ response indicate that he does not feel threatened? What does this reveal about Jesus’ mission?
- Read Isaiah 31:5, Psalm 91:4. What do we learn about Jesus’ mission (and desire) from verse 34? [Even to the wrong and unwilling, God desires to extend to them relief, protection, and care.] What does this reveal about God’s nature?

- Read Jeremiah 22:1-5 and Psalm 118. How does verse 35 seem to contain both a threat and a promise? [The Jeremiah passage indicates a threat of desolation if there is no repentance. Psalm 118 is a psalm of victory, trusting in God's steadfast love.
- **(R)** How does it make you feel that no matter how much you believe you've failed or messed up, God still desires to gather you up for your protection and care?

### **Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God of Hope, we give you thanks that you promise to never leave us or forsake us. Help us run to you in our weakness. Empower us to repent as people of hope that you will redeem all situations for good. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

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 forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.