

## **ADVENT DEVOTION: DECEMBER 6, 2022**

### **LUKE 21:29-38 SIGNS OF HOPE**

Those who know me know that I have whatever the opposite of a green thumb is. I have tried countless times to have green things around. Inside, outside, lots of water needed, no water needed, it doesn't matter. I just can't do it.

Five years ago when we moved into the house where my family currently lives we could tell that the landscaping had once been very meticulously cared for. It needed lots of attention to be restored to its former glory. I knew immediately that it was more than I could handle. We brought in a professional for help. His suggestion "tear it all out and start over!" However, he did suggest keeping what looked to me to be something from a haunted fairytale illustration. It looked like a mess of twisted sticks sprouting from the middle of the yard. But his advice was to "Leave it alone, wait, and watch. You'll be thrilled soon enough." So that's what we did. The next Spring, sure enough, green sprouts started to form. The leaves grew larger and green buds appeared. By the middle of summer we had a tree full of figs. More figs than we could eat! Neighbors and family came and harvested and there were still plenty of figs for the birds and the bugs! This process has repeated itself each year. I leave it alone and the figs reappear.

Today's scripture from Luke uses a parable of a fig tree to remind us that there is certainty in the ripening of the fig tree each year and there is certainty in the coming of God's Kingdom. Hope comes around again and again just like the figs in my front yard. Neither have anything to do with my ability to be a good person, a good farmer, or anything other than a child of God.

### **CHALLENGE:**

What signs of God's hope do you see around you?

### **PRAYER:**

God of hope,

Thank you for reminders of your faithfulness. Help us recognize your work and be led to incorporate those practices into our own lives.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

~Janie Bruce