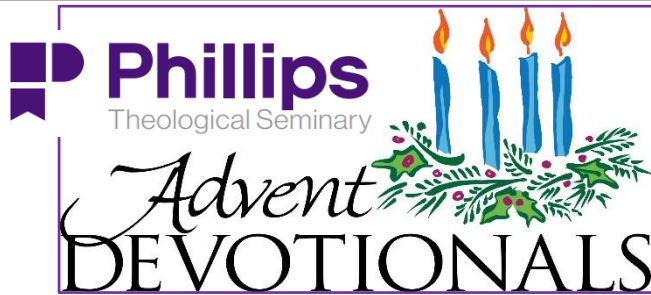


# Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
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Seeking, Serving, Sharing  
December 1, 2024



**FAITHFUL  
RESPONSE**  
**JEREMIAH 33:1-16**

Scholars typically date the book of Jeremiah to a time of great upheaval in the history of the people of Israel, usually during the waning days of the 7th century and up to (or even after) 586 BCE. Thus, Jeremiah can be understood as both a pre-exilic and an exilic prophet. The words attributed to him were first addressed to those living in Jerusalem before the Babylonian invasion and destruction of the city and Temple. Then, he prophesied to the exiles in Babylon.

Our reading is part of a larger oracle of hope/restoration (vv 10-16) amid Jerusalem's despair over the threat of the Babylonians. With confidence, Jeremiah proclaims that people will once again bring thanksgiving offerings to the LORD at the Temple; they will sing their praises with these familiar words: "Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for LORD's steadfast love endures forever" (v 11b)! The LORD promises that the desolation found in the land will be transformed into a "pasture for shepherds resting their flocks" (v 12b).

Perhaps the promise God is making to the people is not about a political change or returning to the way things were. Rather, it is a way of

reminding the people of Jerusalem that they can make this new vision a reality. If they live by the Torah, loving God, neighbor, and self, they will ensure that the land is filled with "justice and righteousness."

In the USA, many feel a comparable sense of despair. Fears about the weak economy, unemployment, the national debt, wars and rumblings of war around the globe, and environmental destruction make it feel like we are under attack. Some religious voices prey upon fears and tell them who is to blame for these "attacks" as a way to enforce their moral views and to secure their positions of power. In these tumultuous times, we can also find words of hope in Jeremiah 33:14-16. A faithful response to the fears and angst many feel is not to blame, deny, or give up; a faithful response is to remember that we have the power to create societies of "justice and righteousness." How we live our lives (as individuals and as communities) can help God's desire for restoration and wholeness to become a reality. With our words and actions, we can proclaim that the "LORD's steadfast love endures forever!" Rev. Dr. Lisa W. Davison

## Sunday, December 1 ~ Service Information

Luke 21:25-36

*"You know that the kingdom of God is near."*

Sunday School @ 9:30 ~ Fellowship Time @ 10:30

Services @ 8:30 & 11:00



**Disciples Women are selling shelled pecans again this year! \$13/lb. Pick some up today! We also have vintage late 1980s FCC church cookbook on sale for \$10. Contact Brenna in the office.**