

## **Discussion and Reflection Questions**

### **The Brave Unknown Week 1 - Pentecost 10C 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2025**

#### **Read: Luke 12.49-59**

<sup>49</sup> 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptised, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' <sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? <sup>57</sup> 'And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? <sup>58</sup> Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. <sup>59</sup> I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.'

#### **Questions**

1. Jesus says he came to bring fire on the earth (v.49). What do you think he means by "fire" in this context—judgment, purification, the Holy Spirit, or something else?
2. Why do you think Jesus warned that following him would bring division(v51-53)? What do you think causes this division?
3. How do you think the Church can be distinctive in the world we live in?
4. How can we interpret the present time? What makes it challenging to do this?
5. What signs of God's activity in the world today might Christians sometimes miss? Why do you think this happens?
6. What opportunities do you think the Church has in our present times?
7. How does this passage help us step forward into the "brave unknown"?

#### **Prayer**

Everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking sin and all that hinders us, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.