

“Stand Firm In This Way”

Main Text: Philippians 3:17-4:1
(Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35)

This new thing God is doing is not our creation and we do not already possess the operating manual. In order for us to participate in this new thing, we need to make sure we orient ourselves. Abram could not comprehend the vision because he was oriented to earthly things. He was concerned about who his descendant would be. God made a covenant with Abram not based on his abilities or vision, but grounded in God's promise. Abram believed it and took his stand. In the Gospel reading, Herod and others in power were threatened by this new thing that Jesus proclaimed. They were set on earthly power and control and never could have enough. Paul speaks of those who have set their minds on earthly things. He reminds them that their citizenship is not in an earthly nation but a heavenly kingdom. He encourages them to look toward this new thing God has promised and stand firm in that grace as Christ did.