

Theme & Passages	Notes prepared by Steve Elmes	
<b>Welcome (10 mins)</b>	Living into the future (holy and godly lives) <b>Psalm 85, 2 Peter 3:8–15a</b> What do you most enjoy about Christmas?	
<b>Worship (20 mins)</b>	Read Psalm 85 together  Our Advent theme for Sunday was PEACE.  Watch this short video (link below) from the Bible Project about peace (shalom). <a href="https://youtu.be/oLYORLZOaZE?si=KIKkDo25EljGWD9T">https://youtu.be/oLYORLZOaZE?si=KIKkDo25EljGWD9T</a>  Share your responses to the video and then join in prayer together, praying for specific people and places.  End by reading Psalm 85 again	
<b>Word (20-25 mins)</b>	<b>Read 2 Peter 3:8–15a</b>  The passage is about how we live between the times (between Christ's birth and his promised return). There are three themes get into:  <b>1 A time of waiting (2 Pet. 3:8–9).</b> <i>How do we understand the waiting time between Christ's first and second advents?</i>  <b>2 Judgement by fire (2 Pet.3:10).</b> Peter depicts a day of judgement by fire, which sounds like the destruction of earth and heaven, making way for a new heaven and a new earth. Steve pointed out that other portrayals of the end indicate continuity between creation and new creation – such as Paul's image of creation longing for the freedom of the children of God in Romans 8, and the theme of 'making all things new' in Revelation 21. <i>Why might our perspective on this make a difference to how we live?</i>  <b>3 Living into the future (2 Pet 3:11–15a).</b> In light of the promised future of a new heaven and a new earth, Peter asks the question, 'What kind of people ought we to be?' He answers his own question with a call to live holy and godly lives. <i>Talk about the relationship between the future we anticipate and how we live. What are the challenges for us in the world we face today? How might the current 'Growing Together' series be relevant to all this?</i>	