

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Rev. Lisa Dormire '86, Vice President of Fund Development at Redstone Highlands Presbyterian Senior Care. Distinguished Alum '11

### **Scripture:**

Hebrews 12: 18 - 29

18You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, 19and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. 20(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." 21Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") 22But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! 26At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." 27This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken - that is, created things - so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; 29for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

### **Devotional:**

True confession. I'm a TLC, History, and Discovery Channel junkie. Please don't judge. Recently in flipping channels, I've often stumbled on shows prophesying the end of the world as we know it on December 21, 2012. Thanks to the Mayans they say. While I'm more than a little skeptical on the theories, those who have eyes to see and ears to hear know that we are living in concerning and complicated days. Financial fears, natural disasters, war... does it get much darker? Once again in this season of Advent and Expectation, we find ourselves with much to fear. How good is the word for us this day then from Hebrews 12. While it may appear that we stand at the mountain of fear and fire, we have come to Mount Zion: the city of the living God. Yes, the world may shake, but we are receiving a kingdom that CANNOT BE SHAKEN! Nevertheless the shaking that surrounds us, we come to the mountain of joy. We watch. We wait. We pray for a better world and we work for a better world. Our trust is firmly placed in

the living God who came to us in Jesus Christ. As we read in this passage, “Let us be thankful.”  
Alleluia.

**Prayer:**

Holy God, though the earth shakes, we need not fear. In you we find our confidence and hope.  
Thank you for this season of joyful expectation. We place our trust in you. Amen.