Conflict is an inevitable and normal aspect of human interaction. You will have disagreements in the workplace, at home and in church. While it can be daunting to take on, conflict is also an opportunity for growth.

* Do you generally view conflict as an opportunity or as a problem?
* Do you know any tips for conflict resolution?

Conflicts can also spiralled out of control with devastating results. As of today, Wikipedia lists 7 major wars (10,000 or more combat-related deaths in the current or past year) and 15 wars (1,000 or 9,999 combat-related deaths in the current or past year). There are also many minor conflicts and clashes around the world. These statistics are very upsetting to read and we all experience distress and sorrow when watching reports of current conflicts.

Christians, however, do not live without hope and Fabian spoke of a place in Belgium (Ypres) that experienced a transformation from utter despair during World War I to a place where people gather from around the world in daily contemplative acts of remembrance.

* Do you know a place that has experienced a radical transformation?

**Read Revelations 22. 1-7**

Revelations can be a daunting book to read and study. If you look for a good book or two on the subject I do recommend

* Richard Bauckham, “The Theology of the Book of Revelation,” *New Testament Theology,* Cambridge University Press, 1993.
* Robert W. Wall, “Revelation,” *New International Biblical Commentary,* Hendrickson Publisher, 1991.

To read and study Revelations well, you must understand its genre (the kind of book it is) and its imagery.

* What is your experience of the book of Revelation?
* Do you know a passage that has given you great comfort and hope?

Our reading is part of the final two chapters of the book which starts with “then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away…” Rev. 21.1

It speaks of the end of our history as we know it, when God will bring together the heavenly and the earthly realities in an act of transformation and renewal. At the centre we have God and the Lamb bringing life and healing to the nations. The people of God are freed from the oppression of Sin and Death. There is no more darkness and the people of God are unafraid and unashamed to see God face to face.

On Sunday, Fabian quoted a line from C.S. Lewis’ book “The Last Battle”

“All their life in this world and all their adventures had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

* In what way does this quote and the passage you’ve read fill you with hope and courage?

The coming together of heaven and earth will take place. In the meantime, we are called to be sign posts of God’s coming reality. We are called to live in the present, the kind of life that will be freely lived in God’s eternal future. We are called to express the purposes and intentions of God where we live and work.

As a prayer, you may want to say the grace to each other:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus-Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever, Amen

Jesus said – Surely I am coming soon – Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!