

**Title: For Such a Time as This**

**Text Esther 4; Psalms 46**

**Date: January 10, 2021**

**WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

1. Which images from this past week's happenings have stayed with you? Which ones caused you the most distress or concern? Explain why.
2. In a couple of words, how would you describe your current thoughts and feelings?
3. What was the first thing you said to God when you saw what took place at the U.S. Capital?

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Psalm 46. What words mirror what we experienced last week - literally and figuratively? How does the psalmist describe God's activity with the natural world? What stands out in terms of their perspective on God?
2. Read Esther 3-4. What is the state of affairs in Persia at that time? If you were a Jew living in Susa, how would you be feeling about the future?
3. What commentary do both Psalm 46 and Esther (focus on Esther 4:14) share in their view of where God is in all the tumult we have experienced recently? How can we draw comfort in turbulent times?
4. What were the factors that helped Esther understand her circumstances and which shaped her perspective of her role? What did Esther need to acknowledge?

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. We hold dual citizenship status - residents of earth and heaven. How can we appropriately fulfill our responsibilities to God and to our country? What guidance and wisdom can lead us toward peacemaking (Matthew 5:9)?
2. What do you feel is your part in bringing about the healing of the nation?
3. What are the prompts from the Holy Spirit that you are feeling to help you to find your voice and role in that healing?