

November 13, 2022
 Creating a New Earth
 Isaiah 65:17-25
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Come Holy Spirit...
 Please be seated.

Good Morning.

What would it take to change how you live your life, so that you can daily join with the holy of holies in creating a new world, a new Heaven a new Earth?

The prophet Isaiah
 said to the people in exile-
 the prophet
 said to the people, of Judah, exiles now, living in Babylon,
 foreigners in a strange land, the prophet said,

“Stop—Stop. Listen, Listen, thus says the Lord. Hear the words of hope from our God, for behold everything is about to change.”

After years and years of exile, the prophet Isaiah said to a people who had been
 evicted, eviscerated
 their power, possessions strewn on a trail of tears—
 Listen...

Return to Jerusalem...

*For I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth:
 The former things shall not be remembered
 Or come to mind.
 No more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it.
 Or the cry of distress...*

*No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
 Or an old person who does not live out a lifetime...
 You will build houses and live in them,
 You will plant vineyards and eat their fruit*

*Before you call, I will answer,
 While you are yet speaking, I will hear...
 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together...
 You shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain...*

Says the Lord. (Isaiah 65:17-25)

Amazing prophetic words, offered to people who need to know that God loves and God cares. Words to people who may fear that they have been forgotten. Hope-filled words to people who have been gone from their homes so long they may have forgotten from whence they have come, and who they are and whose they are...

Amazing words to people, a promise, a promise with a condition. A condition to which attention must be paid.

A prophecy made as it says in the chapter just before this one, a promise made to:

*Those who answered when I called,
to those who heard when I spoke,
to those who served God,
to those who ask a blessing on the land,
to those who make a solemn pledge, to them I say....
Behold I am creating a new heaven and a new earth.*

A prophecy made to the ones who morning by morning turn to God each day.

For as in our own time and own lives, some of the people who lived in exile, after all these years, have let their faith slip, they have for a variety of reasons merged with the culture with ways that are not YHWY's. They have turned away. These words may not be for them, for they may no longer have ears that can hear.

Instead this promise of a new heaven and new earth these words are a call to those, who have not become one with the oppressors. These words are an invitation to the faithful, who would leave all they know and dare to return to Jerusalem and begin all over again—what's it take to do that? To release what we've known and instead turn to God each day and say, "Help me, Use me, to be a part of your longing for what could be. May I be a part of creating a new heaven and a new earth?"

Today, in our context, this day, what might we do, what might our communities of faith do to let go of our world as it is and instead turn to the Holy of Holies, how might we change our lives and join with God in the creating of a new Earth?

Today more and more of our elders find themselves living in poverty...

Today, in this state the leading cause of accidental death for our children are misused guns, with the change in our legislative landscape what shall we do?

More than a million people in the state of Michigan do not have access to enough food.

More than a million of our neighbors are hungry.

How do we, as people of faith, as Christians and followers of Jesus Christ, how will we, hear the words of the prophet Isaiah and use our gifts, our skills, our talents, our money to relinquish this time of exile and follow God and join with God in creating a new world. A world where

*The former things shall not be remembered
Or come to mind.
No more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it.
Or the cry of distress...
They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity
For I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth—Behold.
Amen.*