



## Wednesday Prayer

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Trusting in God’s Promises in Uncertain Times

***“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind”... “I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress”... “Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent —its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.”***  
**Isaiah 65:17-25**

Newsflash: We aren’t there yet. I am indeed “left longing for that place of unending reconciliation and joy.”<sup>1</sup> We are still in a place of unbearable memories, current harm, and left to wonder what can be done.

First, we can both listen to and validate the harm done to survivors of sexual exploitation. With listening, perhaps we can then approach avenues for healing. We can try to become a bridge between the painful memories and current truths that many are enduring, while simultaneously showing that this isn’t God’s plan for any of God’s children. We can attempt to be a glimpse of God’s promises, to be part of that Kingdom of Heaven, while still part of this very real and flawed world.

Isaiah was bringing good news to an exiled, confused, hurt, and lost people. We can bring good news, practical help, prevention work, listening skills, and love, to our exiled, confused, hurt, and lost earthly family. We can bring hope. In doing so, we not only help our wounded siblings in Christ, but we bring hope and healing to ourselves as we navigate our own lives in these uncertain times.

**Listen, validate, share, lead, and live into the promise of that day when we will no longer weep, no longer be destroyed, no longer harmed. God is showing us the way.  
Thanks be to God!**

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<sup>1</sup>Carolyn Sharp, Professor of Hebrew Scriptures, Yale Divinity School, 11/14/10  
[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=678](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=678)

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