

## **Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 17, 2019**

Several times each day I find myself with slight tingling in my thoughts or in the depth of my soul. It is not a pleasant feeling because it brings with it a sense of mild despair.

The questions that accompany this existential quiver is what if we don't soon enough heed the prophets of a climate crisis and the world that most of us have taken for granted for most of our lives is not the one that we leave for our children, grandchildren and generation to come will ever come to know and love.

In our confession each week we ask for God's mercy so that we can delight in God's will and walk in God's ways.

The Prophet Isaiah is speaking to the people of Israel who had been taken into captivity and now most of them were returning after decades to a country that was unlike anything they remember or dream of from stories they would have told my those could see it from their own past. They found a land that was in desolation. Cities were in ruins, crops were gone, and the few who stayed and prospered did not want them to return. All of the lives that they thought they were returning were gone.

They now faced the prospect of living in poverty and despair for dreaming of the past they had seen or heard off from others.

But the prophet shares the word that new things are about to, and are actually happening. God is making all things new. It is not a promise that it will be like it was in the past but, a promise that their world will be turned upside-down. It will be better than anything they had ever dreamed of. They will have vineyards, crops, animals and lives beyond anything they could have imagined.

Even better than that! Peace and justice would reign for all.



Jesus in the Gospel speaks of the time to come when once again the Temple will fall; but not yet. There will be wars and rumours of war. People and families will disagree and, in their, fear will betray and be betrayed. However, in the midst of this we will not be abandoned, "not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Endurance was the most important thing I learned from my We are alive. Do not stop, don't let the world stop you, and do what is right.

In the midst of the worse, sing joyfully.

And let us remember to sing with joy and lust. Singing is the human and companionable of the arts. It joins us together in the whole realm of sound, forging a group identity where there only individuals and making a communicative statement far transcends what any of us could do alone. It is a paradigm of union with the creator. It is what the words, the Word, talk about. We need to sing it well.

We must sing together and work together in joy and then the anxious tingling in the world will find peace and new possibilities +through our community of joy.