

## What Are We Going To Do Now?

"Pastor Rob, what are we going to do now?" I've been asked that at least 10 times today.

Today some of us are in shock and some of us are celebrating. We are in the midst of one of the most significant political shifts in our nation's history. The rhetoric has run the gambit from "deplorable" to "nasty," and that's just scratching the surface. Fear and uncertainty flows through our communities and many of us are afraid of what the consequences of this election will mean for the world we live in, our families, and the ones we love.



And we don't know how it is going to turn out. We. Just. Don't. Know.

The scripture I have been meditating on this week comes from the book of Isaiah, chapter 65:

"I am creating a new heaven and a new earth; everything of the past will be forgotten. Celebrate and be glad forever! I am creating Jerusalem, full of happy people... there will be no more crying or sorrow in that city. No child will die in infancy; everyone will live to a ripe old age... My people will live in houses they build; they will enjoy grapes from their own vineyards. No one will take away their homes or vineyards. My chosen people will live as old as the trees, and they will enjoy what they have earned. Their work won't be wasted, and their children won't die of dreadful diseases. I will bless their children and their grandchildren. I will answer their prayers before they finish praying, (17-25)."

Sounds like a dream come true, doesn't it? The odd thing is most scholars agree that this passage was most likely written at a time when a small group of exiled Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylon and found life to be very hard. They were ravaged by drought, crop failure, hunger, and inflation. They suffered with severe hardship fueled by bitter enmity between rival groups of people and civil and religious leaders riddled with corruption. Sound familiar? I imagine that they felt lost and betrayed, abandoned even, by the promises of their faith. And yet whoever wrote this chose to do so despite how truly awful and uncertain their plight must have been.

Why?

I believe it is because our faith compels us to claim the power of believing in the inevitability of a new heaven and a new earth. Our faith compels us to carry the inevitability of hope as one of our grounding values. Our faith compels to believe that the impossible is not only possible but inevitable - because that is what God is calling us to do. So today, take it all in or take a break, breathe. Let it go. Let it be. Just be.

Because tomorrow is another day and we, the children of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, have work to do. To bring about a new heaven and a new earth where the fears of the people have been soothed by the reality of justice for housing, hunger, health and heritage. We are inspired by the witness in the book of Isaiah to boldly say that yes, there is a better world to be had and we will take part in making that world come into

being. And all of God's children said amen. Amen.

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