

Sermon Outline - Sun, January 15, 2023 – Vision – MLK Sunday
Isaiah 65:17-22; Revelation 21:1-6

Overview of Month – Every January we focus on the topic of Vision. We have been leaning into the apocalyptic text in Revelation 21:1-6. (1) God is with us. (2) God is sensitive to our needs and traumas. (3) We are called to imagine living the Kin(g)dom of God on Earth. Then last week we talked about the fact that bringing the new vision to pass

Exegesis

- Revelations can seem scary because it depicts a lot of change and overturning
- For many this is why Dr. King was seen as scary in his time. Not just did he push back on the racial caste system in America, but he started critiquing capitalism and materialism and spoke out about the military industrial complex during the Vietnam War
- This weekend we celebrate his legacy but let us not forget that transformative change is not usually popular because as we discussed last week – it requires folks to let go of things that some of us have grown accustomed to.
- This week we turn our attention to the Isaiah scripture where God is talking about their plans to restore Israel. This is a God of love and justice who is telling their people that they see their suffering and they will intervene to transform the situation
- This vision of God’s transformative love is what Dr. King preached about and what is celebrated in the Embrace monument – and it is what we are all called to be about.

Key Points –

1. Transformative Vision is Fueled by Love (18b-19a - God gives delight to their children)
 - This has been a source of tension and debate in movements. There may be appropriate forums for anger, but love has to be the source because it will not consume you. It will burn but not burn you out like anger will.
2. Transformative Vision Disrupts the Status Quo (19b-22a - Oppression is overturned)
 - Ensures that folks have what they need and labor is not exploited
3. Transformative Vision Overflows Time & Space (vs. 23 – blessings to children as well)
 - Creates a legacy for the next generation and people you will never know

Questions -

1. What do you love deepest in your life and/or where are you called to cultivate more love? How might the love you have or the love you are growing be a place for transformative vision to emerge? Is there a song that really speaks to that? Could you make a mantra or compose a verse or chorus about that love?
2. Think about a status quo situation that needs to be disrupted in your immediate world at home, school, work or community. How could you apply loving vision to call for a transformation? With whom would you want to imagine a different way?
3. On this MLK Sunday, think about a transformative vision from ancestors or elders that has overflowed to you? Consider writing a poem or drawing a picture that reflects how that vision has blessed you.