

Sermon Outline - Sun, January 1, 2020 – Vision - In Search of a New Hearth
Isaiah 65:17-22; Revelation 21:1-6
New heaven new earth out of box vision of who we are to lead

Overview of Month – Every January we focus on the topic of Vision. As we enter into a new year with a new time slate, it seems like a good time to really pull out to think big and remind ourselves that God’s plan is about transformational outcomes at the big and small level.

Exegesis

- Our scriptures come from Isaiah (most popular book) ; and Revelations (least popular)
- Revelations = Lots of debate about when this was written; time defines context
- John of Patmos – single writer w. some additions possible. Patmos in Greece
- Vision Definition – the act of power of imagination
- Revelation definitely fits the bill of being imaginative. Dense imagery that folks are still unpacking – working in 7s ,7 eyed lamb, etc.
- New Heaven and a New Earth → Hearth – the place in a fire where the logs burn away so that the house gets heat but doesn’t burn down

Key Points –

1. See God with Us
2. Feel God Addressing our Needs and Traumas (sometimes with us being the hands and feet of Christ in each other’s lives)
3. Imagine us living the Kin(g)dom of God on Earth (Note about Kin(g)dom)

Before we start talking about where we are going and what God is calling us to, I am challenging us all to expand our vision. Each Sunday we are going to be invited into deeper imagination about the world God is calling us to live into.

Imagination Exercises -

1. I Dream of a World – Langston Hughes wrote a poem for the world of his dreams – it was revolutionary in his time and continues to be so now. Start writing your own dream! (If you want it to rhyme you can, but you can also just start writing phrases and tie them together more poetically later.)

Langston Hugues – I Dream A World - <https://allpoetry.com/I-Dream-A-World>

2. Coming out of Langston’s words was the book, I Dream A World – a photo exhibit of Black women trailblazers. Choose one of the images and reflect on how the dream the woman was working toward and how we are living the dream of that woman and where we need to keep moving to make her vision a reality.

I Dream A World Photo Exhibit - <https://npg.si.edu/exhibition/i-dream-world-brian-lanker>

3. When you think of your image of heaven, what if It were not so far off, but very much present in the earth. What would that look like? Imagine in our time – what would be transformed. What would it look like (Suggestion - write it out as a story or draw an image)