



## Wednesday Prayer

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Hope and Renewal

**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

**Isaiah 55:10-12**

My senses are engaged in a calm and joyful way as I read this passage from Isaiah. Gentle rains from heaven, the earth's seeds sprouting and providing nourishment, the mountains and trees in praise. It is beautiful imagery of God's power to transform the world.

The Judean exiles are given these words by the prophet to assure them of restoration and renewal through God's word. They are in need of life-giving words as they come out of a time of exile from their homeland. Many of us are in search of life-giving words and spaces and relationships as we find our way in a changed world. We need assurance that there will be restoration and renewal. With God's word we can go out in joy and be led back in peace.

Many children, youth and young adults are searching for hope and renewal after these past few years as well. Isolation paired with increased online use has brought new vulnerabilities to young people. We can be their first safeguard to ensure they feel loved and wanted just for who they are. We can engage in regular conversations with the children, teens and young adults in our lives – asking about their interests, getting outside together, and yes, even sharing online time together. We can ask what online games they like to play, ask them to teach us, show us the apps they have on their phone and what they especially like about them. In these conversations, we can ask questions and share safety tips as part of our ongoing interactions. Here's a resource that you may find helpful in getting started:

[Smartphones \(missingkids.org\)](https://www.missingkids.org).

When my young adult daughter facetimes with her best friend living across the country, I always move into the frame of her phone with a hello and love you! A simple act of joy in hopes of bringing forth renewal and the peace of God's love.

**God of the gentle rain and snow, mountains and trees, you provide the renewal of this earth and all of us through your word. Send us out as messengers to bring this hope and renewal to all the young people in our lives. Amen.**

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