

May 27, 2018

Isaiah 6:1-8

Some stories make you ask: Mushrooms?

Isaiah's vision is based on how world works,
which is different for him 2600 years ago
than for us

I have had visions; well, strong feelings that
led to imaginings

Lately I have had a growing "vision" – strong
feeling of "knowing"

It is based on feeling overwhelmed, much as
Isaiah's reaction to seeing "the Lord":

"Woe is me! I am lost"

When I see and hear about injustice:

immigrants, refugees, young black men
killed, rise of white supremacy (again),
school shootings (daily), gun violence,
government budgets out of control with debt
rising, a world in turmoil, poverty, hunger,
lack of medical care

Any wonder I feel overwhelmed.

Like Isaiah, not here to point finger at anyone

"For I am a man of unclean lips,"

People have heard me say, "We, our world is
on a fast train headed for a cliff. Dark days
are coming."

This is a central part of my "Isaiah" vision
BUT, do not despair, for, like Isaiah, "my eyes
have seen the Ruler, the Lord of hosts!"

The cliff doesn't have to destroy us

The angels' cleansing "tongs with coal" is a
promise that God really does empower us,
love us, makes change possible

For this change to happen, though, we, as
individuals and as a community, need to see
our complicity in the destructive evil that
threatens to destroy us.

"For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live
among a people of unclean lips." This is a
communal problem we must solve.

What I am proposing seems overwhelming, but
change is not impossible

Not change as in an end to pain, rather change
that together, in community, we can support
and care for one another, where
healing/wholeness is possible.

We are facing a huge problem. I will not lie to you:

The present and the near future scare me

I lose sleep at night

The answer – truly – is to be found in trusting the Holy One; the One who is and who connects and enlivens all creation

The answer lies in our learning to speak to the world the words of the Seraphs: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of God’s glory.”

Understanding this is as mysterious as the theological conundrum the Trinity

But, stop and ponder:

hills and valleys and sky and ocean and you and I and our neighbor and the air we breathe – all interdependent, all connected, all one

The Trinity – three in one; interdependent, connected, one – “the whole earth is full of God’s glory”; all the time, everywhere

When we are able to see, trust in this truth, then we have no choice, because seeing, as

Isaiah saw, opens our ears, improves our hearing to the point we can no longer ignore God’s voice, “saying, ‘Whom shall we send, and who will go for us?’”

That is the foundational question for you and for me; the guiding question for Amicable Church: “Who will go?”

Our response must be: “Here am I; send me!”

The only thing that keeps my anxiety levels under control is – from experience – trusting in God to make all things possible,

our seemingly insignificant efforts do make a difference and are the saving grace in troubled times.

So, trusting in the mystery of the Trinity, believing God, let us answer God’s call and tell the world: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of God’s glory.”

Amen.