

God Makes A Way

2019, Pastor Debbie Bronkema

<http://www.pvillepresby.org>

“In an effort to reach people with different perspectives and preferences, we’re testing an automated speech to text transcription for Pastor Debbie’s sermon. This process is not 100% accurate but provides a rough transcription of the sermon Pastor Debbie preached. Pastor Debbie preaches from a manuscript but often goes off script as led by the spirit, making the original manuscript an inaccurate representation of the Sunday service.”

In this sermon, Pastor Debbie asks us to remember that no matter we feel help captive by, God works resurrection in the world. "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. " --Isaiah 43:19
(Originally Preached on Sunday, April 7, 2019 at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church)

Scripture: Isaiah 43:15-21

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=421663423>

[0:00] From Isaiah, chapter forty three. I am the Lord, your holy one, The creator of Israel. Your king.

Thus says the Lord who makes away in the sea a path in the mighty waters who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior. They lie down.

They cannot rise. They are extinguished, quenched like a wick.

Do not remember the former things Or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing.

Now it's springs forth. Do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me. The jackals and the ostriches, where I give water in the wilderness rivers in the desert to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed or myself so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

[1:19] Please pray with me.

[1:24] Do your God made the words of my mouth and the listening ears of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight.

Oh, God! Our rock and our redeemer come in.

Sermon: "God Makes A Way"

[1:39] Remembering. Letting the story of what has happened before come in our mind in such a way that we can almost touch it.

See it as if it is happening right here.

And right now that is what the people had done for generations.

With the story of the Exodus and the crossing of the Red Sea, See, that is lifted up the beginning of this passage.

They have told it, parent to child, over and over and over again. Passing the story as their heritage has their identity.

It lives at the core of their lives.

The time when God save them made away across the sea brought them out of slavery into new life.

Who is God? God is the holy one, the one who makes a way.

God is the one who helps us find new life from that memory.

They know who God is, even when they have been dragged into captivity. This time in Babylon, they still know.

[2:51] But then God says something strange. God says, Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing.

The value in the remembering helps them know who got is.

But now now is the time to stop looking backward and begin looking forward to start seeing the new day to see how this same God of Exodus still moves Will still move.

We'LL do a New thing.

God is God when we feel captive, Lost, wounded,

we need to remember God will make a new way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

[3:42] In nineteen eighty one, during a time when people were fighting it neighbor with neighbor in Northern Ireland in a period called the Troubles that went on for over thirty years, there was trouble,

on the street of First Presbyterian Church of Lisburn that blue all the stained glass windows out of the church.

As people heard the noise, they came running from their home. Some stood crying.

Others went around collecting the little pieces of stainless for no reason. They could discern they just had to do something.

The first thing the church had to figure out is should we stay or should we move?

And they decided together that staying was a vote for hope.

Staying was a vote for the belief that peace can happen.

And so they stayed and they had all these little pieces of glass.

And six years later, an artist came along with an idea to take devastation and make it into beauty.

[4:57] This is the resurrection window from that church.

[5:03] Made of tiny pieces of glass put together to say God's power heals.

God's power brings wholeness and resurrection breaks in when we're not expecting it.

[5:24] What do you feel captive to, today? Are there big picture things that are making you feel trapped?

The kind of things that play out on the news that make you feel hopeless?

[5:38] Or are there realities in your personal journey that you have found yourself stuck in? Feel like there's no way out?

God is doing a new thing even now.

What we know about God and God's people is that what looks like the last thing is never the last thing.

But nothing ever stops God's love for us from making a new way. Doing a new thing.

That's who God is. That's what God does in and through us each and every day.

Making a new way. Listen to these words by D. J. Butler.

Poetry will change your name. You shall no longer be called wounded, outcast, lonely or afraid.

I will change your name. Your new name shall be confidence joyfulness overcoming one faithfulness.

[6:56] Friend of God.

One who seeks my face.

[7:05] It is within God's power to change our identity, to give us a new day, a new start.

God makes change possible. God gives us new chances. God notices us and sees us when we are lost just when we are held captive and renames us at the core of who we are.

[7:33] When we eat the bread and when we drink the cup, maybe experience the power of God's spirit with us,

in us re naming us, reorienting us, doing a new thing in us,

God's love goes before us making a new way.

It is springing forth.

Do you perceive it?

In Jesus name. Amen.