



Wayne's Words

Rev. Wayne Walters



Divine Imagining

Willie Wonka invited children to enter a world of 'pure imagination' in the musical based on Roald Dahl's children's novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Isaiah does something similar for us in this Sunday's reading in his description of the new heaven and the new earth that God promises to create (Is 65.17-25). In this new creation people will no longer recall the griefs and sorrows of the past; the former things will not come to mind. Weeping and crying will be no more. No one will die prematurely. Children will not suffer. People will live out the fullness of their days, enjoying what they have worked for. It will not be eaten away by inflation or thwarted by pandemic or natural disaster. They will have an intimate relationship with God who will answer their longings even before they ask. Animals of all species will live in harmony with one another, and no one will harm or destroy in this paradise of God's making.

This vision of Isaiah is further developed in the revelation that the exalted Jesus imparts to John (Revelation chapters 21-22). Such a picture sparks, and maybe challenges, our imagination. In fact, faith depends on the power of imagination – to be able to picture something that is in such contrast to life and the world as we experience it. Yet such faith is what the ancients were commended for, and whose walk with God has become our inheritance.

What picture do you hold in your imagination for those you yearn to see in a better place in their faith, or health, or relationships or direction in life?

Yearning and imagination are closely linked. Jesus yearned and prayed for his church to be one. St Paul yearned and prayed for his fellow Jews to come to know Christ.

What do you yearn and pray for? The vision of the prophet encourages us to exercise our imagination in holding by faith a picture of a better future for those we yearn for, based on the promise of the word of God. And given that every promise of God is 'Yes' in Jesus Christ (2 Cor 1:20), let our vision be filled with Jesus who urged us to pray, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven', and to work and live in trust and hope toward this end.

God bless you,

Wayne