Yearning for utopia
and the promise of paradise

Isaiah 11-12
Reading Isaiah

- Image, theme & phrase

- The story of the HOLY ONE is the GOSPEL

- Part of a much bigger story: of creation, rebellion, consequences, and the ever-proceeding story of salvation
Key messages of Isaiah

- Intentionally DISTURBING to many:
  
  “Woe” - “beware!” “Oi, watch out!”

- Brings COMFORT to those in distress:
  
  “Surely God is my salvation;
  I will trust and not be afraid”
Living in a parched land
The spiritual diagnosis of Isaiah

- **Sin:** it’s much WORSE than we think
- **Salvation:** it’s much BIGGER than we imagine
- Healed, restored, ransomed, forgiven, transformed, redeemed, & rehabilitated
God’s expectations

Living rightly & justly:

Living rightly before God,

AND with one another as a community

‘Cease to do evil: learn to do good
Seek justice, rescue the oppressed,
Defend the orphan, plead for the widow’

Tasked with being agents of the ongoing creation projects and servants of redemption

1:16-17
The discovery of life-giving water
Isaiah 12:3

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation!

Give thanks... call upon... make known

Sing... shout... let this be known
The yearning for a better world and deep, lasting peace
Isaiah 11:6-8

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra’s den, the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.
Isaiah 11:9

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge
of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
Making our part of the world great again - the desire for a superhero to solve our problems and make things right: *fantasy, reality and illusory*
The shoot & branch of Jesse

- "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him"
- Is there anyone more capable, more trustworthy, more loving?
- The ultimate just & fair judge
- Defender of the poor, and of those who refuse to retaliate
God’s gathered people as outposts of the sanctuary garden of God

Lifting our game by lifting our horizons

The gospel as life-giving, world-changing and all encompassing

Gospel as gathering, living & growing in faithful community