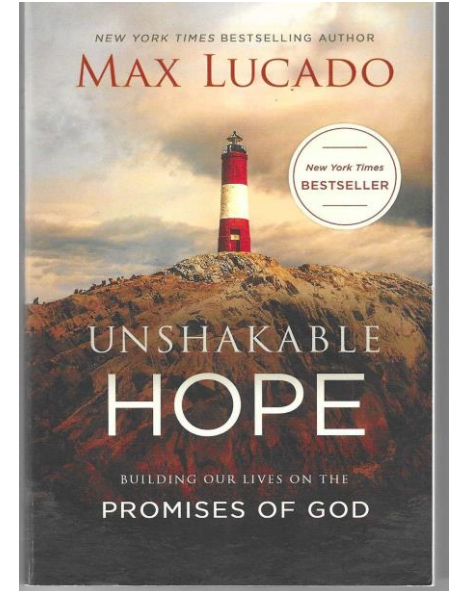

Our God of Hope: making all things new

Spiritual Growth Class
First Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg
Martin-Gifford Classroom

Welcome to our Sunday morning sessions!

An in-person or Zoom learning opportunity is available each week.

- We will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:10.
- If you are joining by Zoom, please mute until you would like to add to our discussion.
- We will start with a brief study about Our Creator God who makes all things new from the Book of Isaiah.
- We will order Max Lucado's book Unshakable Hope for each family joining us so that you can read ahead and immerse yourself in the Scriptures that we will be sharing.
- Interactive discussion is welcomed and encouraged.
- We welcome any prayer requests that you want to share so that we can pray for each other as we learn and grow together.



Why this focus for our study?

Revelation 21:5

New Revised Standard Version

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."



God is always restoring.

God is always renewing.

God is always resurrecting.

God is always making new
according to His perfect plan.

In and through Jesus Christ
for all of creation and yes that
includes us.

What does Isaiah say about this?

Isaiah 43:18-19

New Revised Standard Version

**¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.**

**¹⁹ 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.**



Book of Isaiah

The Book of Isaiah is known for its Messianic prophecies.

Chapter 43 speaks to the promised deliverance from Babylon but also to the new thing that God is to do through the redemption that is to come in Christ.

This word new is used 1,298 times in the Bible. God's new thing was **something that God had never done before**. He was going to make a path in the wilderness and water to spring forth in the desert. ...

The prophet Isaiah urges the people to forget the former things and behold the new ways that God is changing and renewing their lives for their greater good. He is reminding them of the things he has done in the past, and the things that he has planned for their future. **Miraculous things....**

"I will make a way for you in the desert, and this path will lead you to fertile ground."

"I will do the impossible." Streams of water in the desert (wasteland)

I will give you new life, and new direction with My Son, Jesus.

God tells us to forget the former things.

Isn't it interesting our resistance to a new thing?

We like to keep things the way that they are.

God's Word is Trustworthy

The name Isaiah means "Jehovah is salvation."

Isaiah lived and ministered centuries before the birth of Christ.

His 60 years of ministry fell between 740-680 BC.

God reveals many future events in great detail to this prophet.

Isaiah writes them down across the 66 chapters in this book.



After the death of King Solomon, there was a split in the tribes of Israel. The 10 tribes in the north refused to accept Solomon's son Rehoboam as King. They fell captive to the Assyrians in 722 BC.

Isaiah was ministering to the 2 southern tribes of Judah.

The Book of Isaiah was written during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Isaiah predicts the rise of Cyrus from Persia without living during the Babylon captivity. (586 BC)

He prophesied Jesus coming as the Messiah, and Isaiah foretold the Second Coming of Christ.

God's New Thing for His People

In Isaiah Chapter 42, God reminds the people that they cannot live on past victories

The children of Israel had many victories.

- Leaving captivity in Egypt
- Moses and the Opening of the Red Sea
- Conquering the land of Canaan
- Fighting off all attempted Conquerors
- Building the Temple

God did all of this for them, and yet the children of Israel failed God miserably.

Every time He blessed them with these successes, they returned to him evil things.

God loved them and wanted them to change.

God tells them to “forget the former things, do not dwell in the past, I am doing a new thing.”

God does not condemn them for their past...there was nothing they could do to change it.

Instead, through the prophet Isaiah, he again holds out His hand of Hope.

He gives them a new opportunity to start over.

They had seen many miracles in their history. They needed a new faith and a new vision



New Thing Springing Forth (*Budding Forth As A Branch*)

Zechariah 3:8

New Revised Standard Version

8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men of good omen: behold, I will bring my servant the **Branch**.



Branch a name given Jesus in Zechariah.

Zechariah 6:12

New Revised Standard Version

12 Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the **Branch**, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD.

The Redeemer and the redemption by Him, known to them that looked for it and to whom the Gospel is sent for which the Spirit reveals and applies;

The grace of God dispensed through Christ, when old things passed away, and all things became new;

A new covenant of grace was exhibited, a new church established, new ordinances appointed, and a new people called to partake of all this,

Way in the Wilderness New Significance

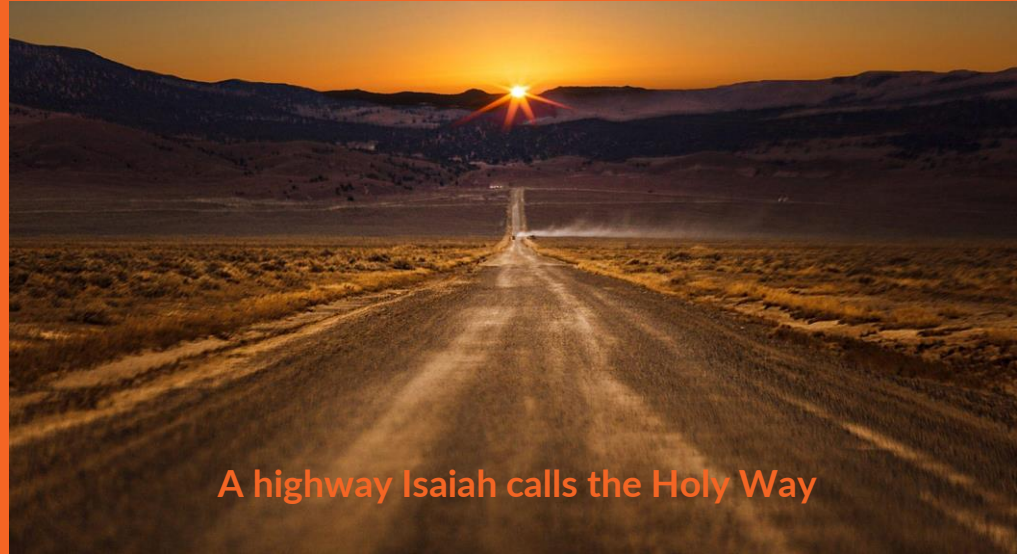
Matthew 3:3

New Revised Standard Version

3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"



A highway Isaiah calls the Holy Way

Jesus says that "I am the Way, and the the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Rivers in the Desert New Significance

John 4:13-14

New Revised Standard Version

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

John 7:37-39

New Revised Standard Version

37 On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, **38** and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

39 Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.



God comes to live in us through the Holy Spirit. God fills us with his life through the Holy Spirit. God cleanses and transforms us by his Spirit. God quenches our thirst with the Holy Spirit that Jesus gives.

Isaiah's Messianic Message begins with these words:

⁴² “Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen one in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on him,

and he will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not shout or cry out,

or raise his voice in the streets.

³ A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged

till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

⁵ This is what God the Lord says—

the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,

who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it

who gives breath to its people,

and life to those who walk on it:

⁶ “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;

I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you

to be a covenant for the people

and a light for the Gentiles,

⁷ to open eyes that are blind,

to free captives from prison, and to release from the



God's New Promise in Christ Jesus

John 3:16

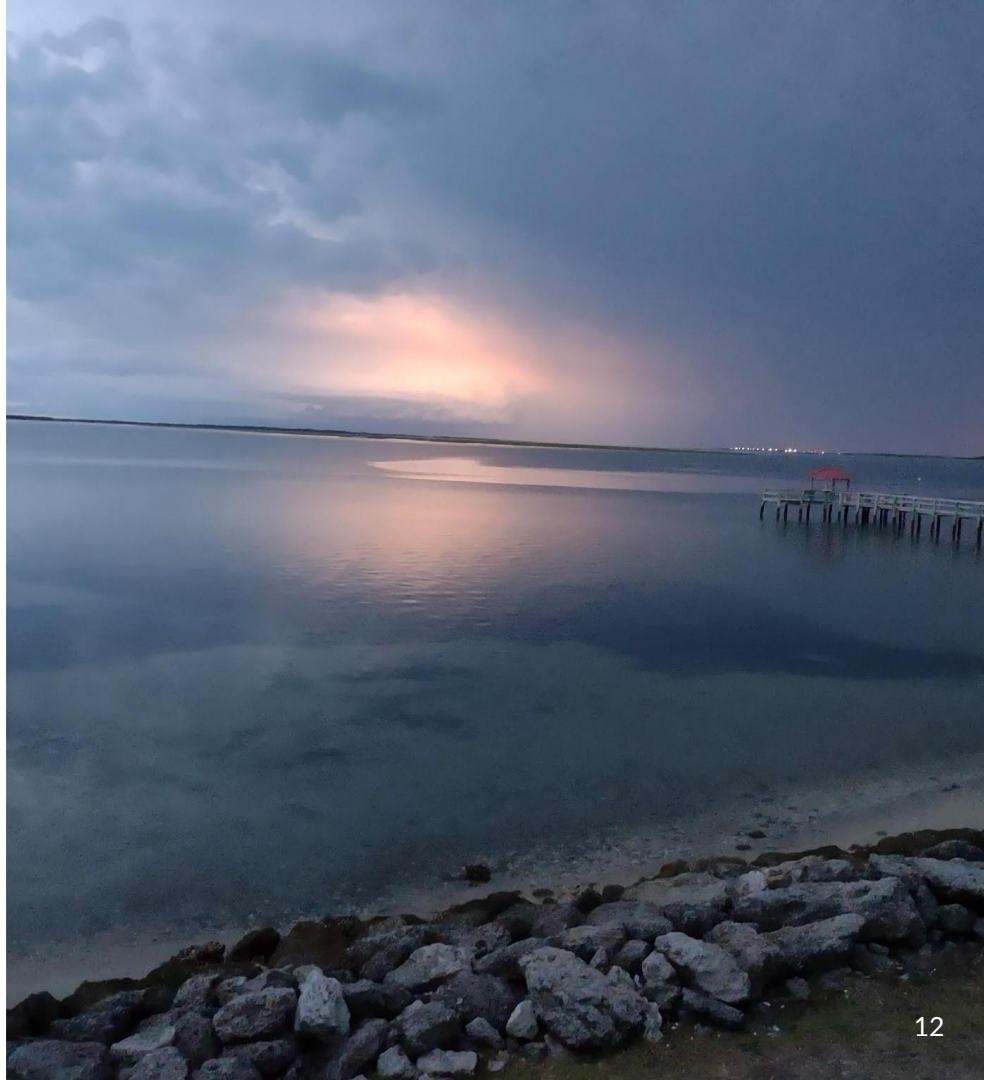
New Revised Standard Version

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8-10

New Revised Standard Version

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— **9** not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.



Jesus' parable speaks of the old and new

Matthew 9:16-17

New Revised Standard Version

16 No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made.

17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."



God will not begin a new thing until He does away with the old. This means that old mindsets, even if based on Godly principles, won't be open to new and creative ways fresh out of a revelation from God's Word.

In the old cloak and old wineskins, Jesus was alluding to the Pharisees, whose rigidity to their law did not allow them to believe in a relationship with a loving God.

By "unshrunk cloth" and "new wineskins" are sinners, whom Christ calls by his grace, and the Spirit regenerates and renews, who are made new creatures in Christ; who have new hearts, and new spirits, the Gospel of Christ is truly received and valued, and these enjoy the spiritual blessings of it;

Both the doctrine of the Gospel, and the grace of God, are preserved entirely

Apostle Paul, who knew all about God making the new self, instructs:

Ephesians 4:22-24

Good News Translation

22 So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to—the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. 23 Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, 24 and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy.

God wants to give us a new heart.

When we come to Him, He will give us a new heart, and put a new Spirit within us

"I will remove from you your heart of stone, and give you a heart of flesh."

You cannot be a new creation without a new heart, so that is where God starts every time.



The prophet Jeremiah and Psalmist David remind us:

Jeremiah 29:11

New Revised Standard Version

"For I know the plans I have for you"
declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future."

Psalms 33:20-21

New Revised Standard Version

20

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.

21

Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

God has great plans for each of us.

Sometimes His plans are not so clear and understood; His way can be uncomfortable; Most of the time His timing is not ours.

We are called to let go of the old and trust in the new thing that God is doing.

He is our Creator - He makes all things new according to His purpose.

God's plans are exceedingly and abundantly better than any of us can imagine.

Jesus' Promise of The Holy Spirit

John 14:15-17

New Revised Standard Version

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. **17** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

There is no place where God is not with us for He dwells within us! His very presence gives us Hope!

Psalms 139:7-12

New Revised Standard Version

7 Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Lamentations 3:22-24 - A Prayer of Hope

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
His mercies never come to an end. They are
new every morning.

Great is Your faithfulness!”

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

I love these verses.

It reminds me that when I get tired and worn
out, God never does.

His love for us never stops.

His mercies are endless which He pours out
new on us every day.

He is my Hope today and every day.

