

## **The Presence That Renews**

### **Isaiah 65:17–25**

*(Missio Dei – The Mission of God to Heal and Restore)*

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### **Connecting to Prayer**

#### **Gracious and Creating God,**

You are the One who makes all things new. You restore what we have broken and call us to join You in Your renewing work.

Forgive us for shaping You into our image and for clinging to idols of comfort, control, and fear.

Renew our hearts.

Renew Your church.

Renew our mission in the world.

Make us co-creators with You in love and justice.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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### **Connecting to God**

Where have you seen God creating something new in your life this week?

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### **Connecting to Scripture**

#### **Read: Isaiah 65:17–25 (CEB)**

17 Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth: past events won't be remembered; they won't come to mind.

18 Be glad and rejoice forever in what I'm creating, because I'm creating Jerusalem as a joy and her people as a source of gladness.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad about my people. No one will ever hear the sound of weeping or crying in it again...

24 Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.

25 Wolf and lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox... They won't hurt or destroy at any place on my holy mountain, says the Lord.

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### **Sermon Summary: The Presence That Renews**

This message reminds us that God's mission—the **Missio Dei**—is to heal, restore, and renew creation.

The problem is that the church and the world often look too much alike. We've made idols out of our preferences, politics, and comfort.

Yet God has not given up on creation, the church, or us. God says, *"Look! I am creating something new."*

Isaiah's vision calls us to three actions:

1. **Tear Down the Idols That Block Renewal** – Repent and let go of anything that takes God's place.
2. **Join God's Mission of Healing and Restoration** – The church is not the mission; it's the means.
3. **Embrace Change as the Path to Renewal** – God is doing a new thing; rejoice and join in!

When we say yes to God's renewing work, we move from maintenance to mission, from fear to faith, from survival to sending.

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### **Connecting Heads**

- What does Isaiah's phrase *"Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth"* reveal about God's character?
- What modern "idols" can take God's place in our lives or in the church?

- What does it mean that “*the church is not the mission, but God’s instrument for the mission*”?
  - How does joining God’s mission reshape your view of the church’s purpose?
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### **Connecting Hearts**

- When have you experienced God renewing something broken in your life?
  - Which idols—comfort, control, or fear—are hardest for you to release, and why?
  - How do you feel when God calls you to change or move in a new direction?
  - What would it look like for you personally to rejoice in what God is creating right now?
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### **Connecting Hands**

- Identify one idol or obstacle that’s blocking renewal in your life. Pray and take one concrete step to let it go.
  - Choose one way to **join God’s mission** this week—serve, give, invite, or encourage.
  - Try a creative act of renewal: paint, write, sing, plant, or serve—join God’s joy in creating.
  - Pray daily: “*Lord, make me a co-creator in Your mission to heal and restore.*”
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### **Notes & Reflections**

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## Daily Reflection Questions

- Where have I seen God at work today?
- What new thing is God creating in me or around me?
- What am I thankful for today?
- What broke my heart today?
- What act of renewal did I join in today?