

# Doing a New Thing

## Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-2, 15-19 (CEB)

## Focus

**One theme:** God is doing a new thing.

**One doctrine:** God created and formed us, promising Presence and Justice throughout all time. God will ultimately renew creation and establish God's righteous kingdom here on earth as it is already in heaven.

**One need:** God to meet us in the wilderness and to intervene in the injustices we perpetuate in our faith communities and in this chaotic and unjust world.

**One image:** [Doing a New Thing](#)

**One message:** God is the one who acted throughout history, who is acting today, and who will continue to act. God is calling IMMC to new ways of being together: God is growing our intercultural competence, God is welcoming all at the table; and God is inviting youth and young adults to join in leadership and discernment.

## Gathering Music

VT 63 Like a rock

VT 59 Ehane he'ama (Father God, you are holy)

VT 43 God be the love

VT 33 You are good

## Call to Worship

*Leader: Look! I am doing a new thing!*

**People: Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?**

*Leader: Look, I am doing a new thing!*

**People: I am making a way, even in the driest of deserts!**

*Leader: Look, I am doing a new thing!*

**People: I am making a way, even in the confusion of the wilderness!**

**All: God of new things, help us to see what you are doing in the world**

***around us, and give us the courage to take up your path. Amen.***

## Worship in Song

VT 437 The Lord is my light

VT 419 Great is thy faithfulness

VT 622 Jesus, rock of ages

VT 630 Everlasting God, on you I call

## Invocation Prayer

Holy Spirit, descend on us this day. We are desperately seeking where you would have us go, love who you would have us love, and do what you would have us do. Even though you are doing a new thing, even though we may perceive it, the path is not always easy. As we enter into a spirit of worship today, give us the strength and courage to boldly walk in Your steps. Give us sustenance for the journey. Have us see with Your eyes and help us not to shy away from the confusing and discomfiting, for we know that you transform the darkest night into the brightest day. Amen.

## Confession

*Leader: O God, sometimes we can't help but long for the easy way out.*

**People: Have mercy on us.**

*Leader: Sometimes we speak when we should have listened or lacked the courage to speak.*

**People: Have mercy on us.**

*Leader: For hiding from Your path,*

**People: Forgive us, Lord**

*Leader: For the times we have chosen not to see,*

**People: Forgive us, Lord**

*All: God, have mercy on us, as we work out what it means to be both Your child and completely human. Give us hearts of discernment to do Your will.*

## Words of Assurance

You, yes you, are loved beyond measure. God is doing a new thing for all of us! We have been given the Holy Spirit as our Advocate. Rest in the knowledge that in our work, we are not alone.

## weGive Week: June 10-14

As our fiscal year ends, IMMC will be promoting weGive and inviting donations. Please consider sharing about this during your service and/or bulletin with [this link](#).

## Children's Time

**Purpose:** the point of this children's time/story is to help the children live into their gifts and calling as part of the congregation now, not just when they're grown up.

**Preparation:** think about or list the new things that your church has tried in the last 5 years or so. They do not have to be things that you still do (actually it's better if you have things that may not have worked but you learned new things from them not working). It might also be helpful to know who planned for or came up with the ideas. Connect with congregational leaders (pastor, board members, elders, etc.) to find out who will be present that day or have a picture ready to show the children these people.

**Materials:** printed image of a [magnifying glass](#) and a [thought bubble](#) for each child.

**Lesson:** With the children gather around, read the IMMC Theme Verse for 2024: Isaiah 43:19. Tell the children about the new things that your church has tried over the past 5 years or so. If you have time, you may want to try going into detail on one of those things and what it means to you.

Next, talk about how even though God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, God wants to do new things with us. Sometimes it's hard to see new things right away.

Then ask the children, "Who is the church?" They may give a variety of answers, but the

answer we're looking for is that "All of us together are the church." One of the gifts that children bring to the church is energy and new ideas. And we believe some of those come from God. But sometimes we don't always listen or see what God is doing.

Show the image of the magnifying glass that you printed. Invite the children to think of new things they have seen around the church and to either write or draw those on in the magnifying glass.

Then show them the image of the thought bubble. Invite the children to think write or draw new ideas that they have for the church to try. At this point, invite church leaders to stand and tell the children to give the paper with their idea on it to one of these leaders (parents may need to help to make these connections).

Close the time with the children reminding them that they are an important part of the church and that you're grateful for them. Consider offering a prayer for the Holy Spirit to give them ideas to share and for leaders to be open to new ideas from God.

## Sermon

You can access a video sermon from Conference Co-Minister Sharon Yoder using [this link](#).

## Song of Response

VT 377 New earth heavens new  
VT 309 Fill us with your feast  
VT 827 Move in our midst

## Benediction / Sending

May the God of new paths in difficult places guide us with discernment, love, and grace into the ways God would have us go. Blessed be the name of the Lord! Amen.

## Sending Song

VT 835 Go now in peace  
VT 832 The Lord lift you up  
VT 830 Go my children  
VT 815 Sizohamba naye (We will walk with God)