Sermon at Bluff, 13 November 2016 Isaiah 65.17-25

Isaiah 65.17: **I am making a new earth and new heavens.**

Many in USA were surprised by the election of Donald Trump as the next US President.

Whether you approve or not, it is a reality. Some see impending doom; others see a new dawn.

Talk of making America great again, of creating jobs, of walling off problems.
Not too dissimilar to our reading from Isaiah. Written after the collapse of Judah, and the deportation of leading Jews away from their country. What is offered?
New earth/heaven, joy, no tears, old age, enjoying fruit of own labours, animals at peace.

What Trump offers is a kind of secular version – you can see why it is attractive to some.

The amazing thing about this passage is TEXT - ie it is beginning to happen *in the present*!

True joy is about living now, not in the past or the future.

Too often as Christians we expend our energy either trying to hold on to or revitalise the past – or stretching out to the future with all its promise and hope.

Nothing wrong with either, but so often Christians fail to discover God in present circumstances.

Three big differences between Donald Trump and God (at least three!)

[1] Trump’s promise of making America great again looks to the past and the future, but sees only gloom in the present. God however sees joy in the present also.

[2] Trump’s vision is just for USA.

God’s vision is for whole earth (TEXT)

[3] Can Trump deliver? Probably not. Opposition, difficulties.
We can trust God to deliver, despite opposition, difficulties.

Faith looks back, hope looks forward. Love is rooted in the present.

1 Corinthians 13.13. These three remain: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.

So live in the present, love in the present, find joy in the present! TEXT.