Gathering of Leaders – Bible Study

Formation for the Missionary Church in a Changing World

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

16 Thus says the Lord,
   who makes a way in the sea,
   a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse,
   army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
   they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
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.
20 The wild animals will honour me,
   the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
   rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
21   the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Questions for Reflection:

* As we reflect upon the challenges of the past 18 months, what stands out to you in this passage?
* What are we invited to leave behind to make space for what is to come?
* Where do you see wilderness today? How does wilderness form the church?
* What does it mean to consider “a new thing” in the context of this passage? What is the invitation to mission in these verses?
* Isaiah tells us that God gives water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert – what an amazing image for this location! How do we find “water in the wilderness” to give drink to God’s people?
* What is the gift of these words for us as we seek to form disciples for a missionary church in a changing world?