



# WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## ***What Lies Ahead***

***Isaiah 43:1-2, 14-19***

### **EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

### **VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION**

*“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 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.” **Isaiah 43:18-19***

This fifty-day season of Eastertide gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say “Christ is risen.” Thomas reminds us that to be resurrection people means to try to see simultaneously the cross as an ending AND a beginning, and to remember that God doesn’t see things linearly like we do.

Isaiah reminds us that “God is about to do a new thing.” It is important for us to recognize the seasons in which God is starting a new thing in each of our lives. Thomas encourages us to look at Eastertide as a time of intentional formation, and a season of deeper intimacy with God.

- *Discuss what God may be newly forming in you right now. How can we be more in-tune with how God is working in our lives, our families’ lives, and our community?*
- *If we look at the cross as the beginning, and not the end, what does it look like to live out the resurrection in our daily lives? What difference does it make to accept that death has been defeated through Christ?*
- *Discuss some practices which will help you think more deeply and pray more broadly during Eastertide. Devote yourself to praying on some aspect of Easter truth, and share this with your group so you can pray for each other.*

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the words from Isaiah which remind us that you are always at work doing new things within us. During this Easter season, help us to practice resurrection hope, and to recognize the places where you are beginning great things. Thank you for our Covenant community. Help us take the truths of Easter, and celebrate and ponder how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ. **Amen.***

