

The Great Reversal

A prayer from Isaiah 60 by Kelly Ann Hall

Look up, Love, take your eyes off the ground, show your face!

A new day is here. The light is rising over you, shining brightly, moving shadows, touching your face—you are brilliant with it!

Darkness may come and go, but the glory of our Creator is a constant companion, a steady light.

Many will see you struggle to live, your choice to stand up and walk in the light, and be changed.

Have the courage to truly see not only the problems, but the one who remains with you holding the light!

We are all coming together. Family, neighbour, and exiles taking our seats at the table. We are learning, we are healing.

So, take the gift of this day you are given. Let the light enlighten you, emanate from within you, become you, be you.

Power is shifting, and it won't look like what we think when love reigns.

Cities riddled with the wreckage of war and marked by the scars of empire, will exchange the sounds of violence and ruin for the clamour of co-creation and communion.

Through the power of God, the oppressed and those stripped of their land are allowed a share in power. We all will weigh in!

Life will grow from the most unexpected places. The smallest and least will be welcomed into the center, and their perspective will matter.

Not only will violence cease, we won't want to hurt one another, but cooperate for the goodness of all. The whole nature of creation will change: the sun and moon will not be the light we revolve around, we will turn and grow by the light of God that shows us the illumined way to go.

We will be ruled by the power of love! We will be remade and refastened to God and one another.

Look up, Love, take your eyes off the ground, show your face!

A new day is here. The light is rising over you, shining brightly, moving shadows, touching your face—you are brilliant with it!

Everything wrong side up is being upended. The table is extending, rounding. You have a place that is only yours. And everyone, everyone, everyone at this table will have more than enough.

So, stand up. Open up. Take it all in, and shine.

Going deeper...

1. What are some lines or images from the visual liturgy that stood out to you or captured your imagination?
2. Are there any lines in the prayer that created dissonance or difficulty for you? Why do you think that is?
3. As you begin a new year, what are some things that you are actively working at learning? What are the places in which you need healing?
4. Reread this line from the prayer:

A new day is here. The light is rising over you, shining brightly,
moving shadows, touching your face—you are brilliant with it!

What do you feel and think when you turn these words over in your heart and mind? How do you think the 'light of Jesus' has the ability to 'move shadows?' What do you think it means to be 'brilliant' with the light of Jesus? In what ways does this feel accessible to you? In what ways does it feel inaccessible?

5. What are your hopes for the coming year both personally and for our community? Are there ways you can see yourself participating in the work Jesus is doing in 'making all things new?' What would that look like for you?
6. What obstacles or challenges prevent you from being able to 'Stand up. Open up. Take it all in, and shine.'? What would need to change for you to be more open to receiving from Jesus?