MAPPING THE JOURNEY:
EMPLOYING HOLY IMAGINATION IN THIS CHAOTIC LANDSCAPE

Kimberly Wagner

Assistant Professor of Preaching

Princeton Theological Seminary

Cultivating authentic holy or eschatological imagination

NOT ESCAPISM/FANTASY

NOT IMAGE OF RESULTS OF OWN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NOT IGNORANT OF PRESENT PAIN, GRIEF, HURT, OR TRAUMA

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Eschatological imagination lives in the tension

Brokenness
Death
Loss

Hope
Resurrection
Redemption

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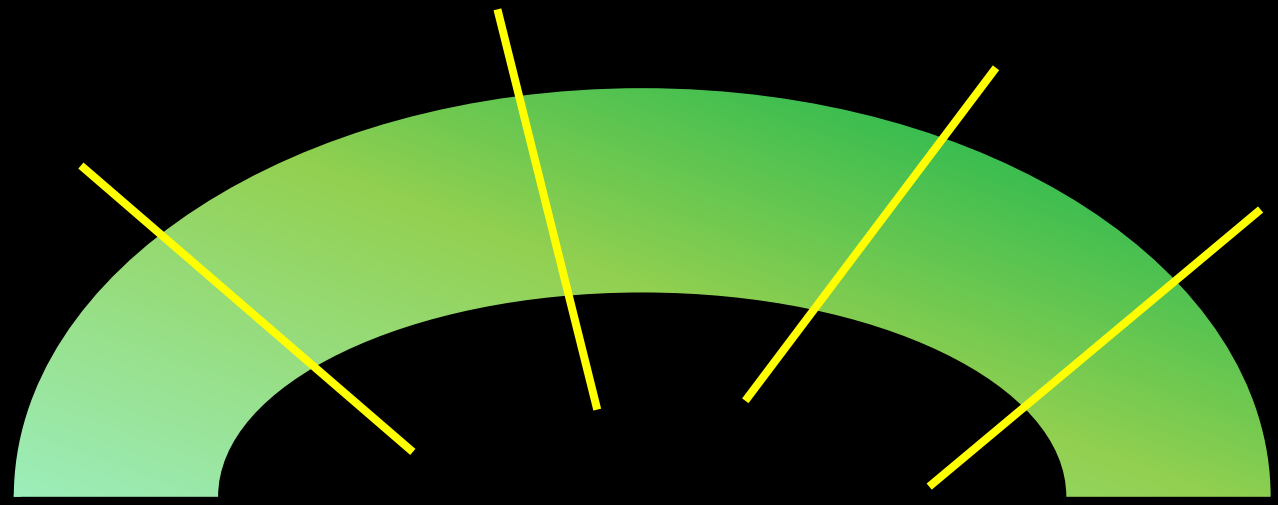
Resists collapsing the tension



Brokenness
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Eschatological Imagination: Wheat Among the Weeds

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[24]He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; [25]but while
everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the
wheat, and then went away. [26]So when the plants came up and bore
grain, then the weeds appeared as well. [27]And the slaves of the
householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in
your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ [28]He answered,
‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to
go and gather them?’ [29]But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds
you would uproot the wheat along with them. [30]Let both of them grow
together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,
Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but
gather the wheat into my barn.’”

SEEKS FLOURISHING AMID, BUT WITHOUT IGNORING “WEEDS”

Locating Ourselves as Discerners and Proclaimers of Eschatological Imagination

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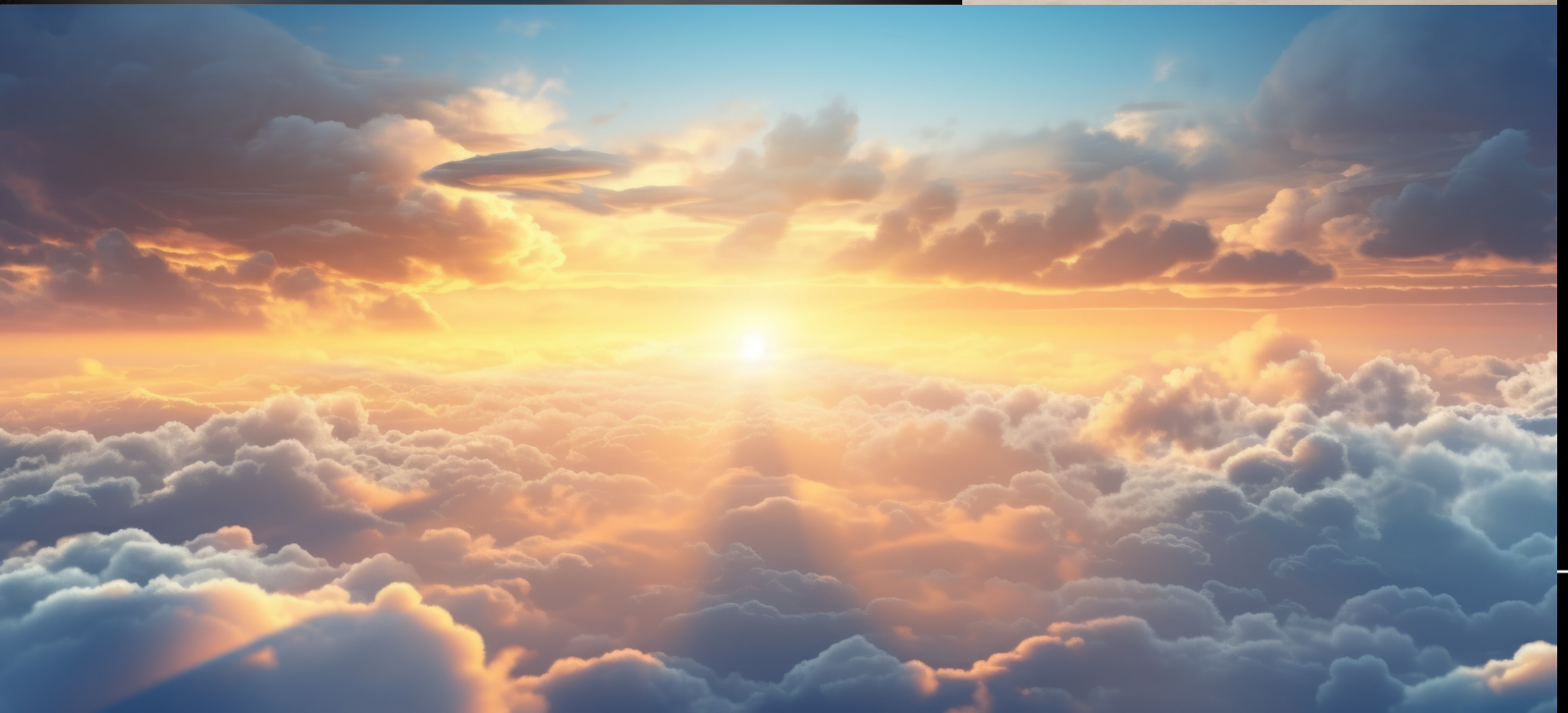

Don’t Need to…

Instead...

Brokenness
Death
Loss

Hope
Resurrection
Redemption

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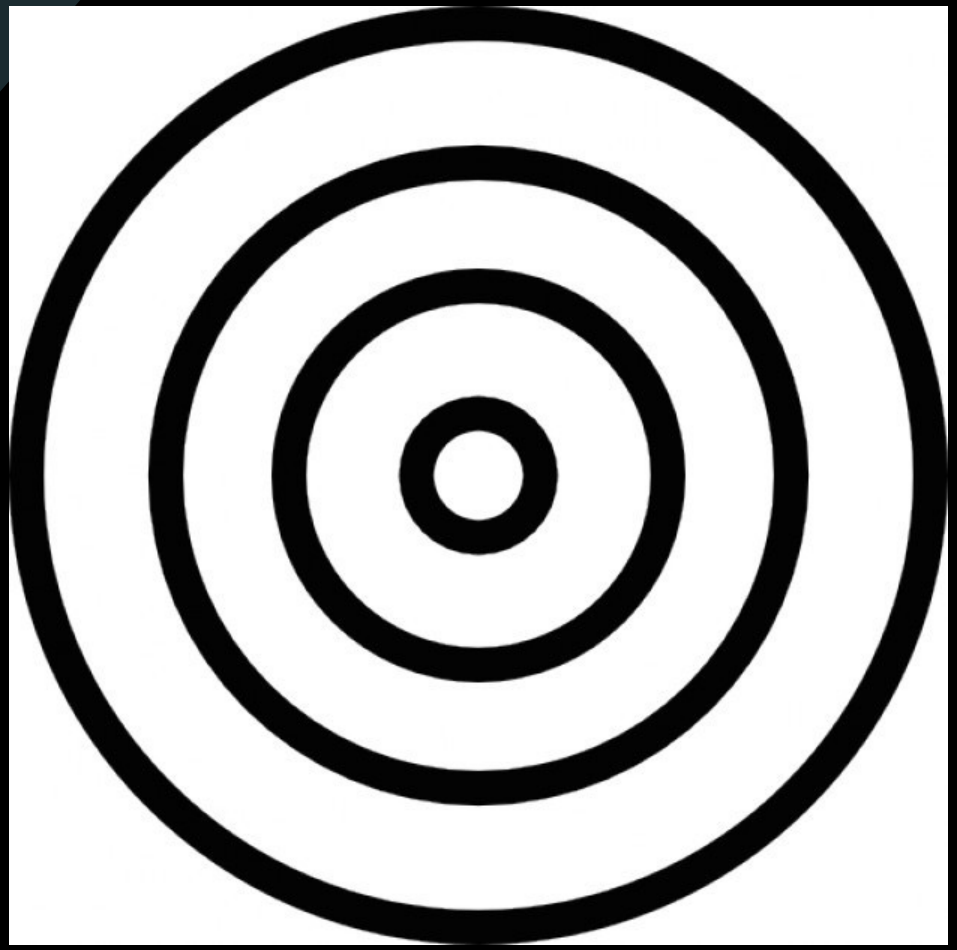

Be Honest about the location of the preacher/minister in relation to the congregation

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Habakkuk

"Prayer of Habakkuk" by Peter Gorban

I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what the Lord will say to me,
and what the Lord will answer concerning my complaint.

~ Habakkuk 2:1

John the Baptizer

Saint John the Baptist Bearing Witness ca. 1600 Annibale Carracci

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Women Surrounding Moses

- Shiprah and Puah, the Midwives
- Jochabed
- Miriam
- Pharoah's Daughter

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PROCLAIMING HOLY IMAGINATION

SUMMONING
TOWARDS VS.
PUSHING
AWAY

Invites Proclamation that...

- Is Invitational
- Models such imagination in conversation with texts and everyday life
- Accounts for the challenges and traumas of the present
- Leans into Communal Wisdom
- Resists always giving a “to-do” list
- Invites action out of hope rather than obedience or despair
- Hopes for biblical “literacy” towards cultivation of imagination

Embodying such Imagination in our Teaching, Ministry, and Preaching

- Contextually-Engaged
- Employ complex and honest stories
- Innately Dialogical
- Entrust this Work to Congregation
- Shape our preaching and teaching forms

Nurturing Holy Imagination

- Biblical Texts
- Everyday Moments of Flourishing
- Attentiveness to God Amid Brokenness, Hurt, and/or Grief
- Poetry, Art, and Music
- Moments of Defiance
- Moments of Humor

WHERE DO YOU FIND SOURCES OF HOPE, DEFIANCE, AND IMAGINATION?

"Blessing in a Time of Violence"

by Jan Richardson

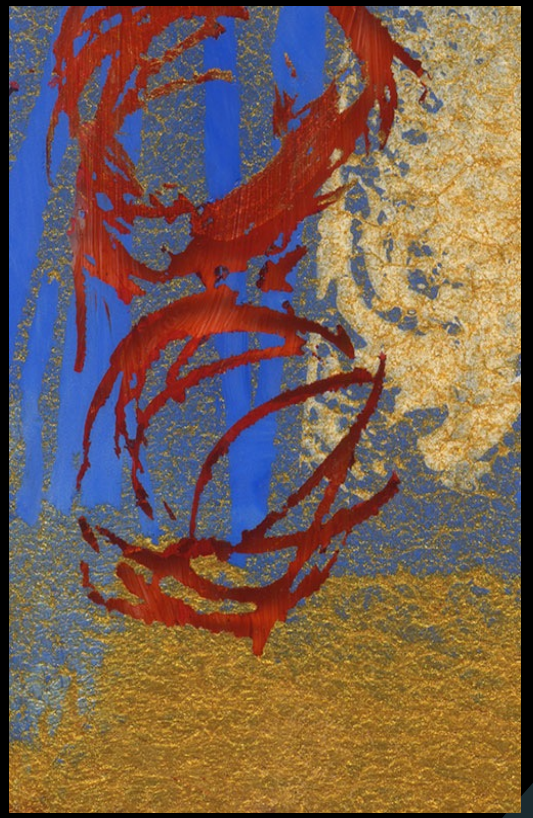
Which is to say
this blessing
is always.

Which is to say
there is no place
this blessing
does not long
to cry out
in lament,
to weep its words
in sorrow,
to scream its lines
in sacred rage.

Which is to say
there is no day
this blessing ceases
to whisper
into the ear
of the dying,
the despairing,
the terrified.

Which is to say
there is no moment
this blessing refuses
to sing itself
into the heart
of the hated
and the hateful,
the victim
and the victimizer,
with every last
ounce of hope
it has.

Which is to say
there is none
that can stop it,
none that can
halt its course,
none that will
still its cadence,
none that will
delay its rising,
none that can keep it
from springing forth
from the mouths of us
who hope,
from the hands of us
who act,
from the hearts of us
who love,
from the feet of us
who will not cease
our stubborn, aching
marching, marching

until this blessing has spoken
its final word,
until this blessing
has breathed
its benediction
in every place,
in every tongue:

Peace.
Peace.
Peace.