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Allow Yourself to be Amazed

On the last Sunday of October I shared with you all a TEDx talk that I had seen at a Minister's Retreat the previous month. The theme of the Ministers Retreat was 'Courage to Lead' and I remember most clearly the discussion we had about leading in a liminal space. A "liminal space is the uncertain transition between where you've been and where you're going physically, emotionally, or metaphorically".

Transformation, transitions and liminal spaces can often make us feel uncomfortable. At the start of the Minister's Retreat everyone had a chance to speak about their personal challenges both in ministry and in general. All of us were facing particular difficulties, and all of us felt like we were in liminal spaces. Someone went on to describe the feeling as being in a dimly lit corridor full of doors leading to the unknown. Fortunately our Retreat Leader did not leave us there in that uncertain space. On the last afternoon of the Retreat we watched Dewitt Jones's TEDx talk entitled, *Celebrate What's Right with the World*. It was a great reminder to face reality, by holding onto an awareness of the what's wrong with the world and at the same time being attuned to what's right with the world.

'How can a weary world rejoice?'. In his talk, Dewitt Jones encourages us to find joy in celebrating what's right with the world, and we can do this by allowing ourselves to be amazed. A perfect example of this is seen in the image of the puff ball, the seed head of the common dandelion. Dewitt was sent on a photographic assignment to shoot fields of bright, yellow dandelions but because dandelions also exist in a liminal space, yellow flowers one day, puff balls the next, Dewitt missed the opportunity to capture their sunny faces. Initially disappointed and defeated, Dewitt decided to get down low on the ground, and photograph them from below; he allowed himself to be amazed.

Do you allow yourself to be amazed? What habit, ritual or exercise can allow you to be amazed more frequently? In Luke's gospel, people are often amazed, and this sense of awe leads naturally to praise.

May the Spirit of God amaze you this week.

<https://www.verywellmind.com/the-impact-of-liminal-space-on-your-mental-health-5204371#:~:text=Liminal%20space%20is%20the%20uncertain,limen%2C%E2%80%9D%20which%20means%20threshold.>

https://www.ted.com/talks/dewitt_jones_celebrate_what_s_right_with_the_world?language=en

