What comes next?

Inspired by the Windermere Accord Summit, October 2018
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Estimated anthropogenic global warming is currently increasing at 0.2°C (likely between 0.1°C and 0.3°C) per decade due to past and ongoing emissions (high confidence).

Where do you want to walk?
Shall we stroll together through the Valley of Despair,
kick our feet through leaves of fear,
brush against obstacles in industry, academia, politics?
Shall we wander in this fog endlessly?
Shall we retreat?

Avoiding overshoot and reliance on future largescale deployment of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) can only be achieved if global CO2 emissions start to decline well before 2030 (high confidence).

Or shall we stride up to the heights
to feel the light and take a wider view?
Shall we be ambitious, and push modesty away,
negotiate obstacles, face uncertainty,
keep our feet on the ground, earthed,
and as a community propose a new road map?

With 1.5°C of global warming, one sea ice-free Arctic summer is projected per century. This likelihood is increased to at least one per decade with 2°C global warming.

We have seen coral reefs dying
We have imagined their passing
We have modelled their death

We have imagined summer fields without butterflies
We have watched decline
We have modelled depletion
We have imagined a world without wild

The risk of irreversible loss of many marine and coastal ecosystems increases with global warming, especially at 2°C or more (high confidence).

What else might we imagine
from the sunlit heights?
Can we imagine a rapid end
to the toxic emission of carbon dioxide,
to the warming?
Can we imagine forests, growing
or the ocean, clean?
Can we make that happen?
Education, information, and community approaches, including those that are informed by Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, can accelerate the wide scale behaviour changes consistent with adapting to and limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

There’s pressure
to look for what you expect to see
where you expect to see it
but that’s not where the interesting stuff lies

There are always questions
Where do we predict that we are going?
What do we need to know?
If we use models as tools to think with
are we choosing the right models?

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C, compared with 2°C, could reduce the number of people both exposed to climate-related risks and susceptible to poverty by up to several hundred million by 2050 (medium confidence).

Who’s in the community?
What’s in our tool box?
Sensors, computers, hope,
Knowledge, stories, reason
Empathy, connection, drive

We are part of the system:
systems within systems,
creating, adapting, imagining, learning
in the human-digital age,
integrated, inter-connected,
as natural systems are,

and we know: Collective efforts at all levels,
in ways that reflect different circumstances and capabilities,
in the pursuit of limiting global warming to 1.5°C,
taking into account equity as well as effectiveness,
can facilitate strengthening the global response to climate change,
achieving sustainable development
and eradicating poverty
(high confidence).

Quotes taken from the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report summary for Policy Makers, October 2018