Rhythms of Grace #10

Remembering, Anchoring our Faith *w/c 8 November 2026*

"Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues, hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist, there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance." (Saint Augustine)

How do we mark significant transitions in our lives today – either personal or national?

Read Joshua 4:1–9

These early chapters of Joshua mark the transition between the Exodus itself and the subsequent conquest of the Promised Land through two specific events. Firstly, the crossing of the Jordan that we read about here and then, a few days later, the provision of manna which had fed them for so many years comes to an end. As chapter 5 notes *"they now ate some of the produce of the land"*.

The Jordan marked the eastern boundary of the land promised to the people as recorded in Numbers 34. It may not match all that God promised to Abraham for his eventual descendants but clearly will be all they can conquer and control at this time.

Reflect on the places, things or senses that help you remember. What draws you back? What do they tell you?

So that the people, as generation passes to generation, can never forget that this has actually happened, Joshua erects a monument. One made from stones taken from the very river they have just crossed. If there is a physical monument for our faith, it would be the empty tomb. **How far does Christianity rest on our being able to show that things really did happen around two thousand years ago?**

Read Hebrews 10:19–25

The 'therefore' at the start of the passage tells us to look to what has come before. Tom Wright considers that it's pointing to the whole of the book leading up to this reading. The author has explained how the entire edifice of Temple worship has been rendered redundant. It's now time to move on. To leave behind the buildings, the priestly rituals, the support structure, everything. The curtain, that which separated ordinary people from the presence of God, has gone. We can all come to God directly, no priests or ritual required. **Why does this matter?**

The exhortation in verse 23 is that we may hold on to the hope promised us; implicitly, to all God has promised. We thought about God's promises back in July[1] where we identified five key ones: God's *presence, peace, provision, pardon* and *perpetuity*. **How can each of these strands shape our day-by-day life with Jesus?**

Finally, we are remined of the centrality of community to our faith. We are exhorted to meet together but this comes with the understanding that 'church' is not just a meeting, it is a place of encouragement. **How might we 'encourage one another'?**

"The great thing to remember is that though our feelings come and go God's love for us does not." (C S Lewis)

[1] The notes can be found on our website at https://stjamestaunton.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/20260705-Genesis_8-Abraham-promises.pdf