8 November 2026

Rhythms of Grace. Remembering, Anchoring our Faith

Memories are triggered and helped by having something solid to see and touch, to focus our divergent thoughts onto the memory. Not that personal memories carried in our minds are in any way diminished, but it's hard to gather around an invisible memory. This Sunday we gather around a cross and a plaque, as so many will do similarly up and down the country, in memory of lives given in service of our country and the following generations.

Reflect

Read Joshua 4:1-9 (also helpful to read 19-24)

God provides a practical way to remember His great act, holding back the waters of the Jordan river, to give safe and clear access to the land He had promised to the nation Israel. A twelve stone monument will stand; a reminder of God's greatness, faithfulness and power, a witness to subsequent generations of Israelites and all peoples.

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

A call to persevere in our faith. This passage begins with a call to remember what Jesus has done for us, which is the solid foundation in which we stand and draw confidence; confidence because "he who promised is faithful." So, we persevere "holding unswervingly to the hope we profess", to strengthen our resolve in times of trouble and doubts. Meeting together for worship, mutual love and encouragement, to display outward signs of our faith through acts of kindness and support for the community. This is a call to work for unity amongst ourselves and the community, to display the outworking of our faith.

Respond

How do you best remember things? What aids you? Photos, smells, songs, voices, letters? These are your 'stones of remembrance'.

> *What are the 'stones' of your faith journey?*
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> *What are your 'stones' to help remember God's faithfulness?*
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> *Which Bible passages are really helpful to anchor your faith in times of stress? Do you mark them in your Bible?*

Thoughts to dwell on this week

Who do you know who needs some encouragement? And what will you do about it?

Remembrance is an understanding of the reality of the past in such a way that the events of the past become a force in the present, producing some activity of will or of body or both. (*Robert Cosand)*

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. (Augustine of Hippo)

Prayer:

Almighty God, you have promised to strengthen and walk with all who endure the trials that accompany faith. Give us grace to persevere in our worship and in your service so that we will reach the desired and intended destination to join with you in your glory. Amen