



## **Rest: Remember**

*Sunday 31 January 2021*

### **Welcome**

*Brendan Petty*

We have arrived at a transition point as a group of Jesus followers who like to gather for worship – just as significant as the transition we made in March 2020 but this one comes with much greater anticipation and anxiety. From February (beginning next week) we begin a new series, ‘Practices’ and we shift to a primarily in-person gathering each Sunday for worship. There will be options for accessing online for those unable to make it or who do not feel comfortable congregating at the church building. We remain committed to making our gathered worship accessible for all and we hold this in tension with the preference of many to physically gather together at a regular time each week.

This week, as we stand in the space between these two seasons of worship, this paper church is a small guide for those at home – a chance for you to read, reflect and *remember* what God has been doing in you (singular and plural) through the last 12 months.

### **Song: It Is Well**

Grander earth has quaked before  
Moved by the sound of His voice  
Seas that are shaken and stirred  
Can be calmed and broken for my regard

Through it all through it all  
My eyes are on You  
Through it all through it all  
It is well  
Through it all through it all  
My eyes are on You  
And it is well with me

Far be it from me to not believe  
Even when my eyes can't see  
And this mountain that's in front of me  
Will be thrown into the midst of the sea

So let go my soul and trust in Him

The waves and wind still know His name

It is well with my soul  
It is well with my soul  
It is well with my soul  
It is well it is well with my soul

CCLI Song # 7021972

Horatio Gates Spafford | Kristene DiMarco | Philip Paul Bliss

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## **Communion**

*Have some food and drink prepared for this time*

Today, as each week, we are invited to join together in a shared meal. It is a meal which we share often – to remember.

It is a simple meal at a table to which everyone is invited. We recognise that throughout our time of separation, we have remained connected as the body of Christ, as we have shared this meal, at different times, and at different tables, perhaps using different elements. Despite being scattered, we have been able to hold this meal as a symbol of our togetherness and our unity in Christ's love.

We are called to share communion, to break bread together, as a sign of our one-ness as the people of Christ. This meal has been a holy sacrament of the Christian church for generations. It is a hallmark of our shared belief, our shared faith. It is a humbling, yet powerful reminder of Christ's love that binds us – and sets us free from sin. God's immeasurable love for His people led His only Son to death on a cross. The death and resurrection of Christ gives us the extraordinary gift of forgiveness and eternal life.

In the first book of Corinthians, Chapter 11 we read these words:

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Cor 11:24-26

We eat, and drink together, and we remember.

## **Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 4:9-12 (NIV)**

*If you are with others perhaps take turns to read different sections*

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children

and to their children after them. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice.

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## Reflections

*Penny Martin*

The power of remembering is profound, in fact the theme of remembering is threaded throughout the Bible. As a spiritual discipline, remembrance can provide opportunities to grieve and to hope, to be humbled and be comforted.

Deuteronomy is a book about remembering. Contextually this is book of Moses speaking to the Israelite people as they stand on the eastern banks of the Jordan river preparing to enter the promised land after wandering the wilderness for 40 years. Moses knows that he cannot go with the people on this final journey and offers almost a ‘crash-course’ of the history of Israelite wilderness wandering and reiterates the law in a final effort to equip and encourage the people before his impending death at the end of the book. Most particularly Moses urges the people to remember. Remember who they are, where they came from and what God has done for them. Later on, in Deuteronomy 4, Moses persists:

*“For ask now about former ages, long before your own, ever since the day that God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of heaven to the other: has anything so great as this ever happened or has it’s like ever been heard of? ... To you it was shown so that you would acknowledge that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him. From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, while you heard his words coming out of the fire ... So, remember this and keep it firmly in mind: The Lord is God both in heaven and on earth, and there is no other ...” (Deut. 4:32; 35-36; 39)*

**For Moses – this act of remembering equips the Israelites to step with powerful purpose and core identity into a new chapter.**

There is power in remembering ...

I think of the encouragement of Holocaust survivors to never forget (even though the memories are painful) and to teach a new generation who did not have to live through such atrocities that we can never allow hatred and evil to rule.

I think of things like Anzac Day – often memorialised by the words Lest We Forget and the power of honouring the memory of people who sacrificed much for the freedom of others.

I think of the recent “Change the Heart” service facilitated by Common Grace on 25 January and the power of remembering the story of these lands we now call Australia and listening to the history of our First Nations Peoples so that we might better understand how to pray and press into unity and a fuller future.

WE have a chance to not only be eager to move out of 2020 and forget it ever happened but to remember and consider and reflect on the things we have been formed by, changed and challenged by, the things that have helped us grow, the things we want to honour and never forget, the things that make us who we are.

As we pause and look back to a year like no other and remember, you might want to consider some of these things:

- What significant moments come to mind?
- Who was I and how did I feel in those moments? (It is important to sit with emotions and not try to erase them.)
- Can I see God’s hand in the memory?
- Can I recognise the significance of that memory in the greater timeline of my life?
- Can I recognise how God has since changed me and shaped me from my experiences?
- Depending on the instance, can I lament or express joy?

Out of this series on Rest as we step across the river and into a new chapter, let us never forget the work of God, the shaping nature of experiences and the power of how we step forward with faith, deep trust, tested assurance and with our eyes open.

*“... I remember the days of old;  
I meditate on all that you have done;  
I ponder the work of your hands.  
I stretch out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.”  
(Ps. 143:5-6)*

## **Connect cards online**

**Click this link or enter it into your web browser [rngwd.com/connect](http://rngwd.com/connect).**

We love to know that you have been able to connect through worship today. Please click on the link (or enter it into your web browser) to our online connect cards letting us know which ways you have been able to worship, and if you want to let us know how we can praying with you. Thank you!