



‘Worship at home’ November 6th 2022



We come to worship to remember
the love and faithfulness of God,
and God’s promise to be with us always.
Light a candle to remind you of this truth.

Opening based on Psalm 145

Come, let us praise God together!

For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Let us tell stories of God’s power and majesty,
God’s mighty acts throughout history:

For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Let us remember the compassion God has shown toward us;
God’s mercy and unfailing love, generation after generation:

For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Let us pass these stories on to our children and grandchildren,
so that they, too, may come to know and love God.

For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>

What is your earliest memory?

**Have you been someone who has been good at
remembering names, dates, phone numbers?**

**Have you found it more difficult to remember events from
the past as you have gotten older?**

Over the past week some of us may have remembered loved ones, on All Saint’s Day. During the coming week we may remember those who have been most impacted by the events of war as we pray for God’s peace and reconciliation for the whole of creation, on Remembrance Day.



to remember - to bring to mind or think of again

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

The Hebrew verb זָכַר (z-kh-r), “to remember,” occurs in the Bible over 200 times.

*Remember your
Creator in the days
of your youth.
Ecclesiastes 12:1*

*Remember the
Sabbath day and
keep it holy.
Exodus 20:8*

*Remember how the Lord your God led you
all the way in the desert these forty years.
Deuteronomy 8:2*

*But take care and watch yourselves
closely, so as neither to forget the things
that your eyes have seen nor to let them
slip from your mind all the days of your
life; make them known to your children
and your children's children
Deuteronomy 4:9*

Remembering was important to people in ancient times, when there were few ways to record information to pass on to others. Stories were remembered and told from generation to generation. Remembering was about recalling in such a way that an event of the past was actually made present once again. This collective remembering, recalling and reciting of their history reminded people of their identity as God’s people, a people of faith.

Haggai 2:1 - 9

On the twenty-first day of the seventh month of that same year, the Lord spoke again through the prophet Haggai. He told Haggai to speak to Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, to Joshua, the High Priest, and to the people, and to say to them, "Is there anyone among you who can still remember how splendid the Temple used to be? How

does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all. But now don't be discouraged, any of you. Do the work, for I am with you. When you came out of Egypt, I promised that I would always be with you. I am still with you, so do not be afraid. "Before long I will shake heaven and earth, land and sea. I will overthrow all the nations, and their 2

treasures will be brought here, and the Temple will be filled with wealth. All the silver and gold of the world is mine. The new Temple will be

more splendid than the old one, and there I will give my people prosperity and peace." The Lord Almighty has spoken.

Good News Bible

Haggai was a prophet around 520BC. Earlier that century, Jerusalem had been taken over and the city, including the temple, had been destroyed. Many of the Israelite people had been exiled to Babylon. Here, without the physical reminder of the presence of God in the Ark of the Covenant and the Temple, it was hard to remember they were God's people, and that God was with them. Once they were able to return to Jerusalem, in 539BC, they found much destruction. The first chapter of this Scripture describes the conditions: droughts had brought harvest failures and famine; inflation made some rich and many poor; the temple lay in ruins and the people resisted doing anything about it. They had to consider how to rebuild their temple, and their faith. Together they had to remember what was important to them. Haggai spoke the word of God to encourage them to remember they were God's people, and to rebuild. He reminded them to have courage and be strong, to remember God's presence with them, and to remember the promises God had made through God's covenant. He gave them a vision for what might be.

So often we look back at the days of our youth and recall how things seemed then. We remember times when the church was central to society, and many people considered themselves church-goers. We lament the changes that seem to have brought drought and famine to our faith, how people resist religion, and how much of our church is in decline. We too might heed Haggai's words and allow them to shape our identity as we remember who we are, as God's people. We have the assurance of God's presence with us, and faith in what might yet be through the ongoing work of God's Holy Spirit, restoring, redeeming, and renewing. 3

*Behold,
I make all
things new.*

Revelation 21:5



Closing Prayer

Almighty God, from the beginning of time your Spirit brooded over the waters, bringing all that is into being; your mighty power and creative nurture:



We remember

Your Word, revealed in the Law and spoken through the prophets, shaping your people, and bringing hope:

We remember

Your Spirit guiding your people, in wilderness times and in times of plenty; your promises fulfilled:

We remember

Christ Jesus, our Saviour, witnessing the fullness of love and grace, redeeming and renewing the world:

We remember

Your Holy Spirit, wind and flame, giving life and breath to your Church, abundantly pouring out gifts to your people:

We remember

Saints of God, all through the ages, witnessing, worshipping, serving:

We remember

Victims of war, who have suffered and died at the hands of others, through no fault of their own:

We remember

Soldiers and civilians who have taken risks and given of themselves in order that we might live in peace and freedom:

We remember

All who continue to work for peace, to advocate for justice, to comfort the suffering, to bring compassion and help for the needy: their acts of love and service:

We remember

In every time and place, God, you have been our help. In ages past and in times to come, you will be with your people, leading and guiding. In all we are, with our whole being:

We remember: Amen!