

Gathering the Stones

NEW YEAR'S EVE REFLECTIONS – DROMORE METHODIST CHURCH

PAUSE

Inhale You were with me then;

Exhale You are with me now.

REJOICE

Psalm 78:4-7

We will not hide these truths from
our children;

 we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the Lord,
 about his power and his mighty
wonders.

5 For he issued his laws to Jacob;
 he gave his instructions to Israel.

He commanded our ancestors
 to teach them to their children,

6 so the next generation might know
them—

 even the children not yet born—
 and they in turn will teach their own
children.

7 So each generation should set its
hope anew on God,
 not forgetting his glorious miracles
 and obeying his commands.

AMAZING GRACE HOW SWEET THE SOUND

That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I am found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to
fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

*My Chains are gone, I've been set free
My God my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, Amazing Grace*

Through many dangers toils and
snares
I have already come
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand
years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's
praise
than when we first begun.

REFLECT

Joshua 4:1-3

When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’”

Use the following questions to note twelve (or more!) significant occasions from 2023, markers of both the good and bad, to help you remember all that God has brought you through this year. If you are willing, you can share one of these with others at your table later.

- What happened this year that surprised you?
- What happened that left you disappointed?
- Where did you go that was interesting or different?
- Who is someone new you met this year?
- What is something you felt proud of?
- When did you have fun this year? What brought you joy?

- Where did you see God at home? At work? At school?

- What scared you?

- What was the best compliment you received?

- What did you find energising about your day? What felt draining?

- What did you learn about Jesus this year?

- How did you help someone else this past year? How did someone help you?

- What is something you'd like to improve for next year?

- What happened in the news that left you confused, curious, or concerned?

ASK

“So each generation should set its hope anew on God” (Ps78:7)

Pray for the world, the church, our community, and ourselves to be able to set our hope anew on God in 2024.

YES

What truth is God asking you to believe afresh?

What action is God nudging you (or us) to do?

(if you have an offering today please place it in the basket as you leave)

IN CHRIST ALONE MY HOPE IS FOUND,

He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought
and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of
peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings
cease!

My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of
Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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