

**Remember: All Saints Celebration**  
**November 7, 2021**  
**Rev. Chris Nunley**

John 14:1-27 (selected verses)

Psalm 23

Isaiah 40:28-31

We are connected to our past.

Funerals are moments of reconnection to our past, our families,  
We are also connected to those loved ones, family members, teachers, mentors,  
friends.

- it's more than mere memories of emotions, events, people.
- These are shaping moments.
- One of the prayers we pray during funeral/memorial services  
*"for those who have made us what we are, we give you thanks."*

*"When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too."* John 14:3, CEB

A hope and a future, for our loved ones, and for us.

Gives us hope, eases our pain and grief when we focus on heaven.

Our past has meaning for our future.

In ancient Jewish understanding, eternal life came not from an extension of life after death, rather from how their past ancestry and future lineage was continued and remembered.

Lineage was eternal life. (And why we have so many genealogies in scripture. And why having children was so critical, especially boys.) Having children meant my life is extended, if only in memory.

Remember: to bring back to mind

Parts of Remembering

1. Bring back to mind
2. An emotional re-experience
3. Connects us again to the past in the present

*"The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you."* John 14:26, CEB

Re-Member: to connect again

Holy Communion is a remembrance celebration event. Recalling what Jesus did for us, but also is about connecting us to the greater story.

Our Jewish Sisters and Brothers tradition of passover begins with the phrase, “we were slaves in Egypt...” Still today, when Passover is celebrated, Jews from around the world re-connect to the Exodus event as participants. The past is brought into the present.

We do the same with Holy Communion. We are celebrating with Jesus, connected to these events, shaping us for our future in the kingdom.

This morning, let us truly RE-MEMBER and connect to our loved ones with honor and joy as we also connect with Jesus Christ and all the saints both in the cloud of witnesses and those who still remain in this life among us in the kingdom of God.