

Note: The Rev. Caleb Kim will deliver the sermon below on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew's, Fenelon Falls and via Zoom.

Title: What do these stones mean?

From the opening pages of Genesis to the final vision of Revelation, the theme of honoring a divine heritage runs throughout the story of God's people. In the Old Testament, God placed the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden—not merely as a test, but as a boundary to remind Adam and Eve of the One who created their paradise. That sacred tree was meant to help them maintain a right relationship with Him throughout their journey (Genesis 2:16-17). In the New Testament, we see this theme of remembrance in the Lord's Supper. As we reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the cross and receive God's forgiveness through sincere repentance, we partake in a living hope and look forward to the promise of eternal life (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

In our scripture today, we find a powerful example of respecting a holy legacy. As Arlene shared earlier, Joshua led a profound moment of instruction for the people of Israel. To make his point, he used the illustration of twelve stones. Joshua commanded one representative from each of the twelve tribes to take a stone from the middle of the Jordan River. After setting up those monuments at Gilgal, Joshua knew that future generations would look at them with curiosity. He knew children would one day ask their parents, "What do these stones mean?"

Joshua answered that question with a powerful testimony: "Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground. For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over... so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God" (Joshua 4:6-7, 19-24).

Joshua and the Israelites established these rocks as a physical sign of God's mighty and merciful presence for their descendants. Before they were gathered, the stones were ordinary items in the river. But once they were chosen and dedicated before the Lord, they became sacred memorials. They represented God's provision and protection during a season of transition and challenge.

As I explored the second half of today's scripture, I noticed that Joshua specifically mentioned another miracle: the crossing of the Red Sea. He connected their current victory at the Jordan to the victory their ancestors experienced under Moses. When Moses led the people of Israel across the sea on dry ground, he commanded them to remember God as the Way Maker and the Promise Keeper. At that time, young Joshua took those teachings to heart. Now, years later, having experienced a similar miracle himself, Joshua sought to pass that same godly heritage to his own descendants.

Like Joshua, we too have a sacred responsibility. We are called to share what we have learned from the Lord with our loved ones and our community. Today, at St. Andrew's, we honor the legacies left by our spiritual ancestors from both the Glenarm and Fenelon churches. Later in our service, we will watch a presentation by Barb Silver from October 2022, reflecting on the artifacts from the Glenarm church that have been relocated here. We will also participate once again in the Act of Covenant before God as an amalgamated congregation. These presentations

and dedications are not just rituals; they are acts of remembrance. We recognize that these items are our “twelve stones”—physical reminders of God’s provision and protection over the years.

When we look around this sanctuary, we see memorials everywhere... While some might see these as mere furniture or equipment, to us, they are symbols of a heart for ministry. Every donated item represents a person who loved this church and a God who blessed the giver. Expressing our gratitude for the dedicated hands of the Glenarm and Fenelon congregations is one way of showing our respect to God.

However, this acknowledgment should extend beyond just visual elements and unfolded histories. Our churches have not only survived challenging times but they have strived to serve the Lord as divine beacons. This is due to the faithful hearts of members and friends who have poured their time, energy, and resources into these “lighthouses of faith.”

All of us here today, or joining via Zoom, will eventually transition from this life to our promised home in glory, just as our forefathers have. But as long as the St. Andrew’s stands, our heritage will testify to a mighty and merciful God. When our descendants reflect on our history, they will not only see old buildings or dusty artifacts; they will see the wonderful stories of what God has done through each of us.

Before I conclude, I want us to ask ourselves: “What kinds of spiritual memorials do I have in my life? How am I passing them on?” Do we have some spiritual monuments and want to hand them to the next generation? These “stones” reminds us that our Lord is “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). When we face unexpected challenges, it is easy to suffer from spiritual forgetfulness. We may feel like we are drowning in our own “Jordan Rivers” and wonder if God can still carry us as He did before. In those moments, we must listen to the memorial stones are saying to us. Can we hear something like, “Yes, God can take care of this. He was faithful then; He is faithful now.” When we remember His supernatural protection and provision, we find the courage to “expect great things from God and attempt great things for God” once again.

Think again about Joshua’s question: “What do these stones mean?” This is our question today. Our journey as followers of Christ is like a marathon, but it is also a relay race. Someone, somewhere, passed the baton of faith to us. They ran their lap with endurance, and then they placed the baton in our hands. Now, it is our turn to run as steadily as we can, until we hand that baton to the next generation.

I believe our Lord is delighted to see us gathered today—an inclusive, amalgamated family celebrating our shared heritage. We are not a perfect church, but we have been working for the glory of God as a committed, united heavenly team. It is not always easy to pass on our God-given teachings in a changing world, but when we remember the miracles that have taken place in this community, we can move forward with confidence. We can also continue to “communicate faith, hope and love” by serving both our congregation and our local community through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

So, on this sacred day, let us fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Our Immanuel Lord is walking with us, just as He walked with our ancestors. Today, we praise Him—the One who died for our sins and rose again. Through Him, we have the ultimate memorials: the Cross, which speaks of our forgiveness, and the Crown, which speaks of our eternal hope. Let us never forget what He has done, while honoring these divine memorials. Let us continue to build monuments of faith that tell the story of God's steadfast love for generations to come. Amen!

**In this sermon, I have drawn on thoughts and materials from various messages based on Joshua 4:1-13,19-24.*