

Memory

Memory can be a life companion or a fleeting thing. It can recall both great joy and great tragedy; hope or despair.

Memory can teach and help people avoid repeating past mistakes when the lessons memories reveal are heeded.

When memories are shared;

they can connect people to each other, even over time and space, but they can also keep people apart and become a destructive force.

Memories can provide the foundation upon which to build a better future;

or they can be twisted; only selectively recalled; colored with 'rose colored glasses'; used with the intent of mis-representing the past, in order to "direct" or attempt to "control" people and the future.

The choice not to remember can also have good and bad consequences.

Choosing to forget a wrong done to you can liberate the power of forgiveness and open up a chance to start anew, renew a relationship, or right a wrong.

Choosing to "forget" or deny a wrong you have done to another, can perpetuate the wrong and increase the harm done many fold.

On the other hand, when a wrong is remembered, inspires the will not to repeat it, and leads to efforts to make amends, the memory can be a power for greatness.

Lord help us embrace the creative and redeeming gifts memory offers from you and use them to make a better world for everyone.

This week, remember in prayer:

- **At least 611 children**, who were taken from their parents at the U.S. border, remain separated from their parents – some for as long as 3 years. Pray for those children; their families; those who are trying to reunite them.
- January 27 was **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**; a day to remember the 6 million Jews and at least as many other people who died at the hands of Nazism during World War II. ". . . all people of faith and good will must recommit to the continuing challenge of resisting and challenging antisemitism and all such hatreds that deny the image of God in other human beings. In commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, we are called to speak and act to prevent its recurrence." (World Council of Churches statement for International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2021)
- **People who live with the ugliness of racism**, bigotry, or prejudice because we have not learned the lessons Jesus taught about how we should treat each other, or the lessons our past has tried to teach us about the dehumanizing nature of fear & the all-consuming & destructive power of hate.



*Take a
Moment to
Pray for
Peace!*

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