

# Remember and Trust

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Series: Presence With: God

Lord, I just want to thank You for what this day means to us in this country. Two hundred fifty years. And I know there is so much turmoil, not only over this country, but over the world. And yet today we pause to celebrate the freedoms that we do have. And one of those freedoms is that we get to be here today, worshipping You. So I thank You for that this morning. And my prayer is that every person in this place would hear just what they need to hear today. We know You're a very personal God, and You speak to each one of us by raising the volume of the words that we need to hear. And that's going to be different for everyone in this place. So would You do that, Holy Spirit, today? And we give You this space and time in Jesus' name. And everybody said, Amen.

Well, it is a thrill to be here. If we could just turn down the mic a teeny, teeny bit, that would be awesome. I know they were so worried. They were like, you better speak into the mic and don't leave it that far away. And I promise not to. But how many of you have been here when I have preached before, so you have heard me? Okay, that is great. About half of you. And half of you are like, who is this girl who's come to be with us today? I should say woman, old woman at this point. But I am thrilled to be here today. We have long roots in this church. Long for us because it's been probably about ten years of off and on me coming here through Jack and Linda Strand, who many of you know. They're our mommy and daddy in love, I would say. But we're so happy to be here on the 4th of July. And you get extra points for being here on the 4th of July. So, but two hundred fifty years.

The sermon is called Remember and Trust, and I think today is a day of remembering. But the reason I've called it that is because I think with God, so often we have to look back in order to really see His faithfulness in our lives, primarily because God is invisible. So we love Him and we know Him by faith. And Hebrews 11:1 gives us a definition of faith, and it says this:

Faith is being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see.

And so we worship this God that we do not see, and so there has to be some ways that we see Him in order to know that He's at work in our lives. I've written another book this last year. It just came out. It's called *Tracking God in Your Life*. And I decided that I'd heard enough of people saying, your stories are so great. And I'm like, you have them too. It's just that I do this for a living, so I think about my stories. And so I finally decided to write a book that would help you uncover your stories of faith. So it's not just a book of questions. It's a book of Bible passages, of stories, and things that prompt you and help you to think about your own life and the ways that God has been at work that maybe you didn't even notice when it was happening. Because I think so much of what God does, we only see looking back. In fact, I call Him the rear view mirror God because of that. And some of you know that to be true. You don't even really know what God is up to while you're living it. And then you look back and you say, oh my goodness, that's what that was all about.

And so this book is about looking back, but it's also about then how to live and lean into faith moving forward. Now that you've seen God at work in all these different ways, how do we then live that moving forward?

So the first point that I want to make this morning is that more is happening than we can see. More is happening than you can see. And we know this, not even just those of us who are Christ followers, who are God followers, who worship a God, who are here today, even though God is invisible. We

know that. But I think this is true really for everybody. There are things that are invisible that we all know are there, whether you're a person of faith or not.

For instance, everybody right now, take a deep breath. Breathe in, really. And then go ahead and breathe out. Not on your neighbor if you just had coffee, but go ahead and breathe out. Now, none of you saw what just came out of your mouth, but we all know that air is real and air is there because we would all be dead on the floor if there wasn't air. So we all know, and of course there's a scientific way of knowing air, but we don't see it with our eyes, yet we know it's there. The wind is the same way. We don't see the wind. We see the wind's effects, and that's how we know it's there. The other thing we don't see is our thoughts. What if we could see right now what everybody was thinking in this room? Maybe some of you were like, oh my gosh, that would be horrible. But we don't see our thoughts, and yet we know we have them because they motivate us, they drive us to action, they give us opinions, so we know they're there. So there are things that are there that we can't see.

And we know, those of us who have been worshipping this God, that God is there even though we can't see Him. We know He manifested Himself in His Son at one point in history. There was a group of people who saw Him, who could touch Him, who could feel Him. That was Jesus. But because Jesus died and rose again, now we worship the God of the Holy Spirit who is invisible. And so we don't see God with our eyes. So how do we see Him? I'd like to suggest that by looking back, we can see God through His effects on our lives, much like we see the wind blowing the trees. You see the trees blowing, but you don't see the wind. You see God at work, but you don't actually see God. And I think where we see this the most probably is in the story of Joseph.

Now, I'm not talking about Mary's Joseph, but Joseph of the Old Testament. We really see God at work in the mysterious way that He works through Joseph's life. Because Joseph's story takes up ten chapters of Genesis. Now, here's the thing. When we're reading the Bible, we kind of know what happens. So it's really hard for us to read it as it was being lived. But the thing that's crazy about Joseph's story is that Joseph had a dream when he was a teenager. Those of you who remember *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* on Broadway, he had the robe, the favorite robe. He was the favorite son. And he had a dream of his own leadership that would eventually happen in his life. And we know that. But when he was a teenager, he had this dream and he came out and unfortunately shared it with his brothers. He's like, guess what, you guys? I had this dream and my star was higher than your stars. And my sheaf was higher than your sheaves. And you can imagine how thrilled his brothers were about Joseph's dream. So thrilled that they decided to off him, but then they had some compassion, some grace. And so they threw him in a pit and sold him into slavery.

So as you're looking at Joseph's story, he's on this downward spiral because he goes from being sold as a slave to prison for an act he didn't do. And you're like, how is this a course toward leadership? It doesn't make any sense. And yet when you look at the macro story, which is so often what we have to do in our lives, you can see God at work through all the unfortunate circumstances. So often we think of God in our circumstances. But God is with us over and against our circumstances. And that was true in Joseph's life.

As Joseph's being sold into slavery, he happens to be led by some Midianites who take him into Egypt, which is actually the seat of power at that time in the ancient world. So you start seeing how geographically Joseph is moving closer to the leadership, but he seems to be moving farther at the same time because he's a slave, but he's a slave in Potiphar's household. Potiphar was an Egyptian official. So now you can start saying, okay, well, he's moving closer, but he was a slave. And to Joseph's credit, he decided to be the best slave there ever was. And Potiphar put everything in Joseph's hands. But unfortunately for Joseph, Potiphar's wife also wanted to be in Joseph's hands. And you can read about that in Scripture. Day after day after day, she actually says this. It's in the Bible. You can read it:

Come to bed with me. Come to bed with me.

And Joseph is so honorable that he runs not only away from her, but out of his cloak because she's grabbing onto his cloak. And so because he rejects her, she tells her husband that he raped her. Now, who are you going to believe if you're Potiphar? So Potiphar believes his wife and now Joseph goes from being a slave to a prisoner and he's in that prison that was the same prison that Pharaoh's officials would go in if they did anything wrong. And so lo and behold, again, if you're looking at the macro story, you go, oh, I see what's happening. The cupbearer and the baker from Pharaoh's palace get thrown into jail. They have some dreams. Joseph interprets the dreams and you start thinking, oh, this is what's going to happen.

I always love to picture the scene when the cupbearer and the baker are released. Now, unfortunately for the baker, he didn't have so good of an ending, but the cupbearer got restored. And I love to picture Joseph going, don't forget me when you get back to the palace. We won't. Guess what happens? You can read about it in one verse. Two full years. Joseph sits in jail. Now just sit in that verse for a little bit. We read these verses like time is passing, years are passing. We go, why did everything happen so fast to the people in the Old Testament? Well, it doesn't happen that way. We're just reading about it that way. So, you know, I'm sure he was thinking at first, well, it's just a matter of time. It's just a matter of time. But six months, seven months, eight months, nine months, a year—there is no way he thought he was ever going to be remembered. And a year after that is when Pharaoh has a dream, and the cupbearer wakes up from his stupor and goes, oh, I know a guy. And so Joseph is restored. He's pulled out of prison. He interprets the dream, and lo and behold, his dreams of leadership come true because he ends up orchestrating the whole famine because that was the dream that Pharaoh had.

Now, who could dream up such a journey? From Joseph's dream as a teenager to the point in time where he is a leader, you never would have known at any given time in that journey what was going to happen. And I hope that gives somebody hope here today, because you have no idea what God's going to do.

In my own life, you know, I—and I've told this story many times, I'm not going to go into detail—but I went through a broken engagement. And it wasn't just one of those things where you get engaged and then you figure out it's wrong a week later and you get unengaged. I was engaged for a year and a half. And I was forty-two when I got engaged. So you can imagine the hallelujah chorus had broken out in my household. I mean, they were like, she's finally getting married. My mom had two showers so fast. I think I had every gift in my registry. I had my wedding dress, my bridesmaid's dresses, and then my fiancé got deployed just before our wedding day. So he was going to be gone nine months. I'm like, I've waited this long. I can wait a little longer. And unbeknownst to me, the wife that had left him suddenly was having second thoughts. So she was writing him, and when he came home, we broke up, and he remarried his ex-wife, which I want to be clear to say this morning is an incredible God story when two people can find their way back together again. I really believe that. I just didn't like my part in the story. And I told God that many times. I'm like, how do you think I was—I mean, there were people that said, well, isn't it great that God used you to bring them back together? Oh yeah, it's fabulous. I hope you have the same opportunity someday.

And so, you know, if you had stopped at any given point in my story, it would have looked bleak. And about four months after that broken engagement, I got a call, a random call. I always say, pay attention to the random calls that happen. And I got this random call from an old friend who was like, Lori Polich, that's my maiden name. I heard you got married. I'm like, nope. He goes, well, that's actually not why I'm calling. He was a youth pastor, and he had planted a church in Santa Barbara, and he said, we were praying about this new position, and your name came up. Now, I wasn't looking for a job, but I always say with God, and we just saw this in Joseph's life, pay attention to the open

doors. So often we're so focused on what God's not doing that we aren't looking at what He is doing. And, you know, sometimes the door that opens is not the door you're looking for, but you better pay attention to that door if you're following the God who wants to lead you, because one door can lead to another door that leads to another door that might actually lead to the door you want. It's just a different route. And that was so true for me.

Of course, right before I left for Santa Barbara, California, I decided to take this job, and I was so happy to have something new happening in my life because I was so broken at that time. I could barely get out of bed. And I remember I was jogging on this path I used to run all the time and this guy said—I said guess what, I'm moving to Santa Barbara—and he goes, oh no. And I said, what do you mean oh no? Santa Barbara is beautiful. And he goes, oh no, there are no single people in Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara is the home of the newly wed and nearly dead. You are never going to find anybody in Santa Barbara. And I want you all to know that that is kind of true. There aren't many single people in Santa Barbara. And I remember running away going, perfect God, You're sending me to the only place where there's no single people. But never underestimate the God that we serve. Because Joseph went to jail before he went to the palace. You never know what God is going to do. And there is a macro story happening around your micro story. And sometimes we're so focused on the micro story that we don't see what God is going to do. And so we have to live by faith.

I got to Santa Barbara and a few more years passed and lo and behold, there was one single guy in Santa Barbara. And so I finally did get married at the ripe young age of forty-nine, which I know will make some girls in this room go to prayer. No, God, no. It's not—it wasn't my dream. I never prayed to get married at forty-nine. But it was God's dream for me. And I have one picture of my wedding day because I married two men, not just one. One was six and one was my age. And God gave me the gift of being a wife and a mom on the very same day. And it was such a beautiful story. But it was so much bigger than me. And that is always how God is working.

Because this little boy grew up in the church that I came to work at because of my broken engagement. And so he was loved by his junior high pastor and his senior high pastor and all of the church community and Westmont students who babysat him. And he was surrounded by this Christian community. And when he was seventeen, he decided on his own in the middle of COVID that it was time for him to get baptized. And in the ocean we went. And he was baptized that day. And then he made a decision, and this next picture shows the decision he made to become a United States Marine. And we are so proud of him. But the other part of his story that's even better for those of us who sit in church today is this next picture shows what he does on the side, is lead worship at the biggest church in Yuma, Arizona, where he is stationed. He is using his gifts and talents for the Lord, and he's growing so much in his faith. He loves Jesus so much. And I think to myself, what I didn't know that God had for me and what we don't know that God has for us, because your life is so much bigger than you, and God is at work in this macro story, and sometimes it looks awful while you're living it, but you don't know what God has in mind. And our job is to love Him by faith. I don't know what You're going to do, but I'm choosing to hold on to You even in the dark. That is what faith is.

The second point is this, that God is at work in us and through us. You know, God is not just working around us. He's also working inside us. And I think where we see that most clearly is when I started looking more deeply into the story of Leah. Some of you might remember Leah. Leah was the wife that Jacob didn't want. Remember that story? Jacob worked for seven years to get the beloved Rachel, who he had fallen in love with at first sight. And then Laban, the father of Leah and Rachel, decided on the wedding night that he was going to switch Rachel and Leah because she was the oldest one, and he wanted to marry her off first. And here is the weirdest part of the story. Jacob didn't even know until the next morning. Now, there must have been a lot of wine at this wedding. I don't know how this happened. I mean, I know that the women wore veils, so I guess he couldn't tell, but

I'm like, really? You were really? I mean, what in the world? But here's what I think, and maybe because my heart is soft, and I just think about this story from Leah's perspective. Imagine waking up on your wedding morning, which was the best day of any woman in the Old Testament. It was what they strove for, to be a wife and to be a mom, and to wake up the day of your wedding and have your husband look at you and say, what are you doing here? And with that disappointed face, Leah has her marriage.

But here's what's interesting about Leah's story. We never hear from her in the Old Testament. So often, I was just saying to the women's class today that there's so much happening in Scripture that we don't get to actually read, that we have to read between the lines, that we just read on to the next story. But what happened to Leah? Well, there's one small passage that shows there was a shift somewhere along the way in Leah's life. And it's in Genesis 29. I'm going to put it up on the screen, and I'm going to go ahead and read it. It's when she starts having children. Now, before I start, the thing about Leah is that she may not have had as much of her husband's affection, but Leah was a baby machine. She had no problem with fertility. Now, Rachel, of course, had her husband's affection, but she had a really hard time having babies. I just want to say on the side here, you know, so often when we want something, we seem to see everybody around us getting what we want. Have you ever noticed that? Why me? Why me? But I'm here to tell you because I write books about faith and pain that every single one of us has been through pain. It just comes in different packages. You look around you right now, every single person in this auditorium has been through pain. Even if they have what you want, their pain just comes in a different package, and it was true with Leah and Rachel. Rachel had so much pain. She had one son, and then she died in childbirth at the second son. And she just wanted to have kids. Well, Leah wanted her husband's love. And we read about it here:

She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."

And then she goes on. She conceived again. And when she gave birth to a son, she said, "Because the Lord heard that I'm not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon.

I think about all these boys being named after Leah's desire for her husband. She gets pregnant again. Again, she conceives. And when she gave birth to a son, she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi.

So she is consumed with wanting her husband's love. That's the focus of Leah's life. And so often it's a focus of ours. When there's something we want, we can't take our eyes off of it. But something happens to Leah. And we know this with the birth of her next son:

She conceived again. And when she gave birth to a son, she said, "This time, this time, I will praise the Lord." And Judah was this boy's name.

And if you look in Matthew 1, it was Judah who ended up carrying the line of Jesus. Of all the twelve sons, the son that was born to the woman who said, "This time, this time I will take my eyes off of what I want and don't have and put it on what God has given me instead." The shift in Leah's heart is the shift God longs for all of us to have, to take our eyes off of what we don't want—I mean, what we don't have and want—and put it on what God has given us. Today is an example of that. You're going to be around family and friends. Look around the room and take it in. Take in the blessings that God has given you. We so often miss that because of what we don't have.

You know, I never prayed to get married at forty-nine, but that was God's answer, God's package for my wedding. I always prayed to be a mom. I never prayed to be a stepmom. Lord, please let me raise

another woman's child. That was never a prayer that I prayed. But these were the packages that marriage and motherhood came to me. And sometimes when we release the package that we want to see God answer our prayers, He answers them. But it's just in a different way. Because your life is bigger than you. God is at work in us, and He's also at work through us.

And we talked about this in the women's class, that the mystery of God is that He uses that thing in us, that painful place, that weakness in our lives, so much more powerfully than anything else. And in fact, that was true for Paul. Paul had a thorn in his flesh. Some of you remember that passage. And so in Paul's agony, he cried out, please, God, take this thorn away. And I think we have the Scripture. What he ended up saying is:

After three times, I pleaded with the Lord to take this thorn away from me. And he said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

And that is so true. I want to introduce you to a friend of mine. His name is Chris Benedict. This was taken just a couple of weeks ago because I actually was helping him prepare a talk that he's given this month. That doesn't seem like a big deal until you hear the way Chris talks. It's been unbelievable what God has done in his life. Chris has cerebral palsy. And because I think it would be more powerful for him to tell his story rather than me to tell his story, I want to show you just a quick little couple-minute video of Chris's story. Breathe in the perspective this gives you today. Let's watch.

## **[VIDEO: Chris Benedict — Strength in Weakness]**

I have cerebral palsy. My Apgar score was zero. That means I was clearly dead when I was born. I weighed three pounds, one ounce. And my mom had a cranial aneurysm, and she died from that. And then my dad took me home. He couldn't take care of me for obvious reasons. It sent me down to live with my grandparents. Lived with them for about twenty years until I moved out. My aunt took me to church for the first time. When I thought of church, I thought of choir music. And you know when I got there it was a small rock band. And I was like, yeah, I can deal with this. So one thing led to another, I met Christ and it changed my life. God has given me new eyes even though I have a disability and what I'm able to do with my abilities. There's not enough opportunities God has laid out in front of me. I've been able to DJ. I've been able to do public speaking. I just landed a job at a new site museum. I've done several half-marathons, one for the School for People with Disabilities in Nicaragua. Jesus says,

"In their weakness, they are made strong."

If I encounter a step that I can't go over, do I get frustrated? No, thank you. If I didn't have help, I couldn't do what I do. It's because of God's blessing that I'm able to do that. Jesus said that all these things are just temporary. Those things that are unseen are eternal. And He said, when we die, we don't die, we just change form. That's what I'm really looking forward to. And because what I can't do now, I will be able to do it then and forever.

## **Resuming — Chris Benedict Stories**

There's two quick stories I want to tell about Chris. And one is that he was the DJ at my wedding, mine and Jerry's wedding. And the other story I want to tell you is that we did several mission trips from our church in Santa Barbara. And one of the places we went was Nicaragua, which he referred to. And one time, one of the pastors on staff got a vision because there was a school down there in Nicaragua that we used to work with. It was called Los Pepitos. And it was a school for kids that were mentally and physically disabled. And so Jono, a pastor on our staff, said, you know what? I want to

do a mission trip where we take Chris to Nicaragua to speak to these kids. Can you imagine how powerful it would be for those kids to see someone like that? So it was just a group of guys. The whole mission of those guys was just to get Chris around a third world country. Because you can imagine he has his electric wheelchair. He's got his whole life. He can do it on his own when he's there. But he could do nothing on his own when he went to Nicaragua. They had to get him on the plane. They had to get him in a wheelchair that they pushed. They had to feed him. They had to clothe him. And so they worked on Chris the whole week while he spoke to the school in Nicaragua. He was the missionary to these kids. And when they saw that somebody like them had shown up in their country, it gave them a hope that none of us could have given them, because he knew their pain.

And God has given us this weakness, this pain that we want to have God take away this thorn. Please take this from me. I don't want to live with this. And God says, but I can use it so powerfully if you let me. And so that's the question. Will you let Him have that pain? Because God does work through weakness.

And then the third and final thing I want to share about the way we see God is that things line up beyond our scope. I've already kind of talked about this with Joseph, but you know where we saw this? My husband and I went down to Corinth in Greece, actually, because we were filming a video for RightNow Media, and I had done Romans 8 in Rome, so I wanted to do 1 Corinthians 13 in Corinth, and so we went down to Corinth, and we were really intrigued to read about the Corinthian church from a secular perspective in the city. If you go to the city, you can see the ruins, and you see this plaque, and it kind of talks about Paul's journey in that place. And I'm going to be honest with you. I was rather underwhelmed by what I read. I mean, they talked about this church. It was full of divisions. It kept splitting. They argued all the time, and finally, after about a hundred years, the church disappeared. There were people in the church that went places that had a relationship with God, but the church itself kind of disbanded. And you know what? You can kind of see that as you read 1 and 2 Corinthians. You see Paul's frustration in trying to get this church together and not to be divided and to be unified and to love. And I thought, gosh, you know, I wonder if Paul was disappointed.

And then I was holding a Bible while I was reading this plaque about the Corinthian church. And I looked down at the Bible in my hands and I thought, but do you think Paul could have ever imagined the impact that his letter to the Corinthians would have? Because that letter made its way into the Bibles that you and I hold and has reached millions of people. I mean, there are even people that aren't Christians that know 1 Corinthians 13 because they've been to a wedding. And that's usually what's quoted. Love is patient. Love is kind. Sometimes they even have plaques on their walls. They don't know where it's from. But I think about Paul. You know, so often he was in jail. If you read the letters, you know, it's like, I, Paul, from jail. I, Paul, from jail. I'm sure he was like, Lord, why do I keep getting thrown in jail? I mean, gosh, I could have so much more of an impact if I could be out there visiting the churches. I guess I'll just write letters. It's all I can do. Do you think Paul could have ever imagined that the letters that he wrote in prison would become the widest impact of his ministry? We don't know how God's going to use what we're doing. We have no idea the seeds that we're planting around us that God's going to use the most powerfully in our lives. We can't see it. We have to live by faith that He knows what He's doing at any given moment, even when it's not happening and you wish it was.

And I have a prophet for you, for those of you who sit in the middle of your story. You know, we're talking about this. So often we think if you're in a dark season today, maybe you feel like, gosh, it just feels like the end. God didn't do it. God isn't doing it. But somehow you got up this morning and you're here today, so God's not through with this story. We might be done. It's not in our timeline. You know, when I was forty-eight years old, I'm like, it's too late for me. It's too late for me. I'm not getting—God's like, no, nope, it really isn't. Because in a year, you're going to get married. And, you know, He has a

different timeline than we do. But we have to love Him and know Him by faith, this side of heaven. We don't see what He's doing.

You know, once He delivers—you know, there were four years where I gave my testimony in the middle of the story, and I didn't have the ring on my finger. And I got to tell you the first time I did, you know, I was like yeah, he ended up marrying, remarrying his ex-wife and, you know, broke up with me. And I looked up and people were like—but I said but you know what, God's not through with my story and I'm choosing to hold on. Brothers and sisters, that's what faith is. It's choosing to hold on when you don't see what He's doing. Once you see what He's doing, it's celebration. It's not faith. And so you need to hold on, and Habakkuk is going to help you do that. Who is Habakkuk, you say? He's a prophet in the Old Testament. So let me read you the end of Habakkuk, because the beginning of Habakkuk ends the same as the end of Habakkuk. What Habakkuk is waiting for never happens in his book. He is still in the middle of the story. Now, it does eventually happen. The Lord does show up, and the Lord restores Israel, but not in Habakkuk's book, and here's how he ends up. He says this:

Though the fig tree does not bud, and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails, and the fields produce no food, though there is no sheep in the pen, no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice. I will be joyful in God my Savior.

We need Habakkuk faith. You know, when I was going through all my heartbreak, I love to think about, you know, my husband did some modeling in his early years. And so when I was going through all my heartbreak, I have a picture of what my husband looked like during that time. And I always like to think of this as a symbol of what God sees that you don't see. Because if I could have gotten one glimpse of this, I would have kicked that fiancé so far out the door. But we don't see what God has. We don't see what God has. And so we live by faith. Hebrews 11:1 says,

Faith is being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see.

Let's put that verse up because my husband's dying right now. And I want to close with an illustration that, you know, sometimes God can speak to us through anything. And for me, it was a movie that I watched. Maybe some of you might remember *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. It was such a little movie. And it's about this retired group of people, and they decide for one last adventure, they're going to go to India to this hotel. They look at the brochure. It looks beautiful. They get there. Nothing is what they thought it would be. And there's one scene, this hotel manager's darling Indian man. They're all yelling at him. This is going on. And he goes, everybody be quiet. And then he says this, everything will be all right in the end. If it's not all right, it's not the end. And you know, that's true, not only this side of heaven, but with the things that won't be resolved until that side of heaven. Because we know in Jesus that even death is not the end of the story. You have a faithful God. And I pray that you and I can continue to love Him and worship Him by faith.

Let's pray. God, I pray for my brothers and sisters right now. In fact, why don't you put your hands in your lap right now and picture yourself holding the thing that you do not understand, whether it's a person that's breaking your heart, whether it's a condition that's breaking your heart, whether it's something you want and don't have and it's breaking your heart. You're holding that in your hand. And then open your hands. God, we want You to take this. It's so hard for us to live with these things for not just today, but months and years. Some of us live with these things for so long. We wonder where You are. Why aren't You doing what we want You to do? But God, give us eyes to see what You are doing. And most of all, give us a heart that knows that You are faithful. No matter how it looks to us right now, You are faithful. And You will be forever. So God, we trust You this morning by faith. In Jesus' name, amen. Amen.