

Can you find a stone?



The first stone we hold to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health.



Pause and see the trees that have lost their leaves- they stand naked, bare, their colour and decoration dropped.

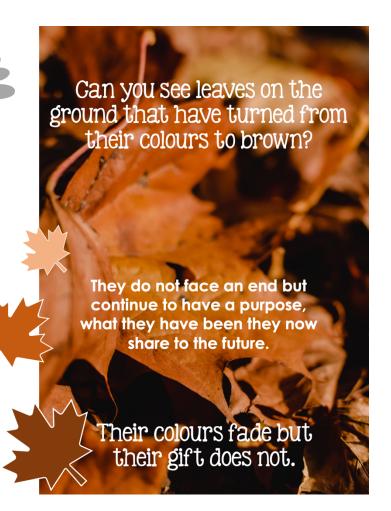
Notice how the tree stands,
Notice how the tree stands,
lose it hide in shame or does it remain?
Notice how the tree stands,
Notice how the tree?
Notice how the tree stands,
Notice how the tree stands,
Notice how the tree stands,
Notice how the tree?
Notice how the tree stands,

Can you find another stone?
This second stone we hold to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season.

(You are encouraged to name them).

Bring your stone as we journey ahead.





Can you find a stone in this place?

This third hold stone we hold to remember ourselves. We pause and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

We acknowledge the pain of the loneliness we have felt, the touch we have missed and the friendships we have forsaken as we have struggled to be.

Carry your stone as you move on. Can you see a broken branch or twig? Where did it come from? Is it from one of the nearby frees? What caused it to fall? Is it useless now it is broken? Is it without worth because it is not connected? What could you do with it? Have others noticed it, held it, walked with it?



Place your stones down, or create a pile with them. Feel the earth as you place them. Notice each one as you lay it down.

Leave your stones.

Come, God-with-us: who braves our rejection and hurt,

who holds us in acceptance and love.

Come God-for-us: who whispers in our ears

that each of us are beloved children.

Come God-under-us: who cradles us in arms that never grow weary;

whose lap has room for all.

Come, God-over-us: who watches in the long silence of the night,

that we might rest in peace.

Come, God-beside-us: who steadies us when we falter,

who lifts us up when we fall.

Come, God-behind-us: who picks up all the faded dreams we drop along the

way, and patchworks them into hope.

Come, God-with-us, Emmanuel,

let your light shine in our darkness. Amen.

