

April 6th
Fifth Sunday in Lent

“Do Not Remember the Former Things”

Text: Isaiah 43:16-21
(Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8)

One of the greatest dangers to moving forward is looking back. It is a matter of looking through the windshield or the rear view mirror. The people of Israel remembered the powerful things that had been done for them in the past and grieved what they no longer possessed. This kind of grief and nostalgia created the danger of not perceiving the new thing God was doing. Isaiah reminds them not to remember the former things, because God was doing something new. The danger is that we try to force the new into the old. We limit our ability to see something even greater than what was. How might we get caught holding back from moving into the future because we are too busy remembering the past? In Philippians, Paul recognizes the value of this new thing in Christ. As great as the gifts he had received through his Hebrew heritage, he now considered them rubbish compared to this new thing God has done in Christ. How are we valuing this new thing God is doing compared to what was? Are we too busy looking back to see the surpassing value of what God is putting before us? Do not remember the former things. God is about to do a new thing.