



Monday Musing: August 11, 2025.  
Time and Place...

Lately I have been going through the closet and pulling things out that just don't fit the times anymore. You know how it is, getting rid of clothes that are worn and outdated or don't fit right (their fault not mine), and old, frayed

towels that have stayed on the shelf for years, and well-worn shoes. Yup them too. Some things we keep and adapt to the present, use differently and reverently like my Nan's cups and saucers. But then, I don't use them for coffee. They're not big enough! All things have their time and place.

Back in 2019 a friend of mine said he knew of an MGB for sale, and did I want it? Wow. Did I ever want it! Ever since I was a teenager, I have loved those cars. His friend was a mechanic who had rebuilt, painted and certified a 1980 MGB and was only the third owner. He wanted her to go to someone who would cherish her. That would be me, I figured! So, I did it. I bought her. My little girl.

Yet, all things have their time and place. And so does she. Her engine is small and simple, so different from today's engines. She has no fancy environmental protection or blue tooth mechanisms. She's not run by computers! She'd never make it in the snow as she is so low to the ground! But then, she comes from a different time and place. She comes from England, a land of old narrow roads and rain. So, I adapt her to my life taking her out in the summer and not on the highways! The cars of today, the speeds, and busyness of our roads are different from 1980 in so many ways! She serves me well and I enjoy her. She's special but not an everyday car for 2025 in Canada.

Our world is a very different time and place from 1980. And from 2000 to 3000 years ago too. That's how old our scriptures are. Our bible.

Some of us here at St. Andrew's United are reading the psalms this summer. We're discovering there are psalms that just don't make sense to us now...like trying to drive an MGB in the snow. Many of the psalms ask God to wipe out enemies, or they refer to God's actions through nature. The psalmists talk about Israel, Judah, Jacob, and Ephraim, wildernesses and exile, destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, hope, promise, and steadfast love. The psalms are prayers, poems and songs from another time and place in the world as are all our scriptures. We need to understand those times to understand what the ancients were feeling and why they wrote what they did. They are ancient writings that became sacred. As I read them, I think of cleaning out the closet.

Some of the psalms touch my heart and are meaningful like Nan's cups and saucers. Some are more like clothes and shoes that don't make sense today. Some of the psalms are like my MGB – cherished, adaptable to the present, but not for our Canadian weather.

All things come from a certain time and place in our world. It doesn't mean they will always be applicable to another time and place. Most often, there is a need for real discerning assessment, adaptation, and yes even, putting them away for the winter of our time and place after learning from them about those who lived long ago.

Let's continue to read our psalms remembering they were written by passionate faithful people who understood God in their world. They lived 2500 to 3000 years ago. Like my MGB, their engines are simple, they lie close to the ground, they just don't make it today in our snow. But we can appreciate what they were then and there.

Peace always as we journey through the past,  
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### Prayer

Ancient of Days, of all times and places,  
May the words of the ancients teach us of their passion,  
their faith, their joys and their struggles.  
May the words of the ancients teach us to write of our passion,  
Our faith, joys and struggles.  
May we hear of the changes through time  
And discern remains the same – faith, hope and love. Amen.

### Scripture

Isaiah 5:1-7	The unfruitful vineyard will be purged.
Psalms 80	A prayer for God to care for the vine brought out of Egypt.
Hebrews 11:29-12:2	The great cloud of witnesses who lived by faith.
Luke 12:49-56	Jesus comes to bring fire and division within families.

### Bible Tid-Bits

Psalms 121 begins by saying the psalmist lifts his eyes to the hills and asks from where will his help come? It is a rhetorical question. The hills were the high places where other gods were worshipped or believed to reside. But not the psalmist's God. What would the ancients not understand if they could read about our time and place in the world? What would they be able to relate to?