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Rock or water?

You have probably played the game of “Scissors, paper, stone” where two people simultaneously make signs with their hands and depending on what each chooses one of them wins, or there is a draw. Scissors cut paper, paper can be wrapped around stone, stone blunts scissors: each can be a winner depending on the opposition.

The world is moving fast now, changing constantly and sometimes it feels that we are in danger of being left behind. This can make us nostalgic for the past and keep us clinging to the old ways of doing things, hoping that we can slow down the rate of change.

The same can be said of our faith life too, that nothing is how it used to be and why can't we keep things as they were in the past? In the book of psalms God is described as a rock – a “rock in whom I take refuge”, “you are my rock and my fortress”, “he alone is my rock and my salvation.” In other words, God is reliable and enduring.

Moving forward to the time of Jesus, we see God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” He also said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

This Eastertide, celebrated by the church as a time of re-creation, we can take both these images to refresh our faith. The living water of faith in Christ around the rock of constancy offered by God challenges us to renew our lives, holding on to the best of the past and being willing to be changed in the future.