

Busy: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God

A Time for Every Matter

Lent 5
April 7, 2019

Taking a Breather

As we gather together, we will use the first part of the service to slow down, to settle our souls so that we might reconnect with an “unhurried God.”

Prelude
Cross

When I Survey the Wondrous

Wood

Slow It Down -

Praise be to God,

Creator of time and space!

Who has set eternity in the human heart.

Who gives us today

in which we can be happy and do good.

Today,

in which we can eat and drink and find satisfaction.

Today,

which is a gift from God.

Let us worship the One who makes everything beautiful in its time.

For everything God does will endure forever.

Forever and ever. Amen.

Some people remember the rhythm of life when we lived closer to the land. Some people even remember the Farmer's Almanac! We lived by the seasons, working the land longer hours in the seasons of more daylight, and then lying fallow, curling up cozy by the fire, in the seasons of short days and long nights. It wasn't so long ago. And still there are those whose lives have

stayed connected to nature and those who are choosing to intentionally live more seasonally. But in this industrial world, most of us have lost touch with the natural rhythms of creation—of which our bodies are a part. And we wonder why our well-being can't be maintained in a constant state of high-level productivity and speed! Our scripture today reminds us that there is a time for every matter. The rhythms of busy and play, work and rest have become blurred as we have become out of touch with the natural ebbs and flows of time and energy in this beautifully-created world.

Gathering Song 2128
Center

Come and Find the Quiet

Verse 1

*Come and find the quiet center in the crowded lives we lead
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be...*

Catching our Breath

I invite you to a deep breath...

[take a moment to breathe in and out slowly]

If you have a watch on, I invite you to take it off for this hour of worship.

If you have a phone, I invite you to turn it off or put it away now.

If that makes you very anxious, that's OK.

Let these simple acts (or maybe not-so-simple acts)

be a sign of the commitment to give ourselves a break,

to give ourselves just an hour to catch our breath,

to give ourselves time to give God attention.

Prayer for Clearing Out (responsive)

Creator God, we push and push until we are exhausted.

Let us make room for you.

Release us from the illusion of the control of time and our fear of its passage.

Let us find room for you.

Help us clear out the incessant drive to always produce.

Let us be room for you.

In the name of Jesus, who invites us to wholeness.

Amen.

+Hymn 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Welcome and The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Taking Note

The second part of our service invites us to “take note” of what God is saying to us this day, through scripture, music, and sermon.

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

[the children are invited forward toward the end of the peace and music begins under the invitation. The people sing as the children come forward and as the adults settle into their seats]

Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord;

Abide in him always, and feed on his Word.

Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,

Forgetting in nothing, his blessing to seek.

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover God has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in their toil.

Anthem

Is It Nothing to You?

Wagner
Chancel Choir

Sermon
Kanerva

Liz Rolf

Sermon Note: *For many of us in this modern, industrial, tech-savvy world, we have lost touch with the seasonality of life. We want what we want, when we want it. We come to believe that no time is off limits and the lines between busy and rest, work and play, have become increasingly blurred. How far are we from the rhythms and "pleasure of our toil?" What cost to ourselves, to our relationships, and to our planet is this frantic pace? How has our denial of the passage of time and seasons of our lives created*

an anti-aging sentiment as well as the worship of everything “fast” and the sense that immediate gratification is “normal?”

Taking It Out

The final movement of our service is a time of committing to take a bit of this serenity and peace out into a busy world. We are reminded to “keep the main thing the main thing.”

Offering

Invitation

With grateful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory

Doxology

*For time to savor God's good gifts
For space to breathe and hearts to lift
For ways to reach out and to give
We offer thanks and vow to live!*

Dedication

Generous God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms in witness to your love, you bless us from generation to generation with the new life of Easter faith. all that we have and that we are come from you, O God, so we gladly share this offering , that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Eucharist

Invitation

This is a moment of Family Time at the table.
This is a moment in time for putting away fear of scarcity and fear of exclusion for the table is set for all and there is enough for all.
So put away your hurry to make more, be more, do more, have more.
For the table is set and there is enough and nothing to do but be present.
All are invited to this table of plenty.
Just say "yes" and pull up a chair.

Confession Meditation

But, there's not time to say, "yes."

There's so much to do.

Is there really time to take a moment?

If I sit down I might never get up.

If I take this moment, I might lose my momentum.

I'm barely making ends meet anyway.

It's hard to believe this moment comes free of charge.

What will it cost me to in the long run?

What will it cost me If I don't take this moment?

So let us pause, breathe and trust.

Silence.

*Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord;
Abide in him always, and feed on his Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.*

Great Thanksgiving

Our Loving God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us take this moment to center our hearts, lifting them to God.

We take this moment and lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to The One who gives all things.

**It is right to pause,
breathe,
trust
in the One who gives all things.**

In the beginning there was One Vast Moment that contained all things. And then in one breath, you God, Creator of All Things, set in motion an unhurried sequence of astounding, life-inducing, grace-infusing moments that led us to this “now,” this people, made in the image of You. Along the way You remained steadfast and sure, unhurried and patient with us. You rescued us time and again from the rush of our own making and promised we would never be alone.

And so, with all the people of earth and the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of pow’r and might;
heav’n and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest are those who come in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
He took time, calling folks by name to follow him,
to be healed, to be renewed, to be transformed.
By his life, ministry, suffering, death and resurrection
we can know this communion together
for he promised a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

He said to us, “Peace, be still. And know I am always with you.”

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.

In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

We remember with thanksgiving our Lord's Passover meal, shared with his closest friends.

Jesus looked around the table.

Here were his disciples that he called, each by name.

Some he knew were scared.

Some he knew were tired.

Some he knew would betray and run and hide.

But he took bread anyway, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so,
because we find ourselves often scared, tired, and ready to run...
because we need so much to remember Christ's offering for us,
we offer ourselves and proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

In this moment,
we pause,
we breathe,

and we trust in your unfailing grace.

We open ourselves to your Spirit poured upon us now,
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.
As these things make Jesus present once again at this table,
may we set a table for the world,
offering moments of solace, peace, grace.
We do this now, making heaven on earth
until that final banquet when heaven and earth are truly one.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen!**

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

+Closing Song 2203

*In His Time
Sing the Faith*

2203

In His Time



1. In his time, _____ in his time; _____ he makes
2. In your time, _____ in your time; _____ you make



all things beau - ti - ful in his time. _____ Lord, please
all things beau - ti - ful in your time. _____ Lord, my



show me ev - ery day as you're teach - ing me your way, that you
life to you I bring; may each song I have to sing be to



do just what you say in your time. _____
you a love - ly thing in your time. _____

+Blessing

May you notice creation around you
and how effortlessly it passes the time.
May you see the passing of time
as a friend, with all its fast and slow.
May you find delight
in the season of "right now."

And may you be re-acquainted each day
with an unhurried God
who is calling you to dive deeply into love.

+Song 2128
Center

Come and Find the Quiet

Verse 3

*In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.*

Postlude

Jubilate Amen

Wagner