

Today's devotion was written by Rev. Becki Verbridge, Interim Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Elyria.

There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens: a time for giving birth and a time for dying, a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted, a time for killing and a time for healing, a time for tearing down and a time for building up, a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones, a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces, a time for searching and a time for losing, a time for keeping and a time for throwing away, a time for tearing and a time for repairing, a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking, a time for loving and a time for hating, a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 CEB)

Time is a funny thing. One moment we can feel the bottom has dropped from under us and the next moment we can be on top of the world. Life can seem full of problems today but tomorrow can appear full of promise. Our experience is always changing and life is constantly moving on. In some ways, that is a sobering reality as it reminds us of the passing of our own lives. Yet, where would we be without the variety that the passing of time brings? The birth and growth of our children, the change of seasons, the anticipation of special events, and the like?

The secret with time is knowing how to respond to it, understanding what is appropriate at any given point. For example, should we put the past behind us or hold on to it? Should we attempt to overcome an obstacle or give up? Should we stand up for our principles or compromise?

We face a myriad of questions like this every day and no one response is ever uniformly correct. We need always to seek God's guidance, for God is the One who holds time itself in his hands, the One who - in all the changes and chances of this life - will never change.

*God of past, present and future, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow,
teach us to use each moment wisely, always open to your guidance, always awake to your will.
Teach us to see time not as a threat but as your gift, and so may we live life to the fullest,
and to the glory of your name. Amen.*

Pastor Becki

<https://youtu.be/wUI8AAR3Bps> *To Everything There Is a Season* (Artist: Melody Hsu)

To Everything There is a Season (aka Turn! Turn! Turn!) was written by Pete Seeger in the late 1950s, and first recorded in 1959. The lyrics – except for the title, which is repeated throughout the song, and the final two lines – consist of the first eight verses of the third chapter of the *Book of Ecclesiastes*; however, the word sequence was rearranged for the song. Later, the song was released in 1962 as, *To Everything There Is a Season* by the folk group, The Limeliter's on their album, *Folk Matinee*, and then some months later on Seeger's own album, *The Bitter and the Sweet*. (Source: Wikipedia.org)