A Lent For All Seasons

2017

To Everything,
there is a Season,
and a Time
to every Purpose
under Heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Calvary Episcopal Church
Front Royal, va
In observing the Liturgical Calendar, we honor the sanctification of time. We experience the Holy in the special seasons and days of observance. In doing so we also embrace the holiness of every moment, day, week, month, and year of our lives and the ever-cycling seasons of the year.

In 16th Century Belgium a calendar marked the labor associated with each month of the year:

- **January**: Keeping Warm and Feasting
- **February**: Pruning and Splitting Wood
- **March**: Breaking Ground
- **April**: Planting
- **May**: Riding
- **June**: Mowing
- **July**: Reaping
- **August**: Threshing
- **September**: Ploughing
- **October**: Treading Grapes and Making Wine
- **November**: Slaughtering a Pig
- **December**: Throwing Snowballs

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to contemplate how we experience and appreciate time. What fills our days and nights and illumines our imaginations? Where do we see the Holy in our lives? How do the four seasons impact our experiences, knowing for some the darker season of Winter can usher in a time of melancholy and sadness? Do we notice any difference as we mark our birthdays in childhood, adulthood, or old age?
The Human Seasons by John Keats (1795-1821)

Four Seasons fill the measure of the year;
   There are four seasons in the mind of man:
He has his lusty Spring, when fancy clear
   Takes in all beauty with an easy span:
He has his Summer, when luxuriously
   Spring's honied cud of youthful thought he loves
To ruminate, and by such dreaming high
   Is nearest unto heaven: quiet coves
His soul has in its Autumn, when his wings
   He furleth close; contented so to look
On mists in idleness—to let fair things
   Pass by unheeded as a threshold brook.
He has his Winter too of pale misfeature,
   Or else he would forego his mortal nature.

While we are pretty clear about the Liturgical Calendar’s connection to God’s story, we don’t readily see ourselves or the world around us as sources of that same story. In each of our days and seasons we might ask the same questions, “Where is God in this?” or “What is God teaching me through this?”

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”
   Ecclesiastes 3:1

Peace,

Debbie

Journey of Faith
Weekly Lenten Program

THURSDAY EVENINGS 6-8 PM
Join us for Pot Luck & Activities at Calvary

March 9  Advent
March 16  Christmas/Epiphany
March 23  Lent/Holy Week
March 30  Easter

Lent & Holy Week Calendar

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER  FEBRUARY 28
4:45 to 6:30 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes  MARCH 1
7:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 7:30 PM

PALM SUNDAY
Holy Eucharist & Blessing of the Palms  APRIL 9
8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY  APRIL 13
Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar  7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY
Good Friday Liturgy & Communion  APRIL 14
7:30 PM

EASTER  APRIL 16
Festival Eucharist  8:00 AM, 10:30 AM
Children’s Easter Egg Hunt  9:00 AM
This 2017 Lenten booklet is dedicated to Janis Lange (1933-2017) who wrote so many wonderful and spiritual poems. Her poems have been a part of the Calvary Lenten booklets for the past 17 years. While this year’s poems would be her last, Janis left behind a collection of over 80 original works from which the Calvary community can remember her. These poems will be enjoyed for years to come. Our spirits will continue to be lifted and blessed by her words.

The Lord is near to All who call on Him.

Psalm 145:18
The church seasons follow the life of Jesus Christ, beginning with the preparation for his birth in Advent, the birth of the Christ child at Christmas, the journey of discipleship in Epiphany as the Wise Men follow the star to Bethlehem, the preparation for remembrance of Jesus' passion and death during Lent and Holy Week, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead at Easter, and his ascension into Heaven. After his ascension, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and build our relationship with the risen Christ during this season. These seasons and their meanings are an important rhythm of our spiritual life. Following the liturgical calendar connects us to the larger body of Christ anddeepens our spiritual practices as we remember important aspects of our faith. Colors in the church (altar and pulpit decorations, vestments, banners and tapestries) change according to the seasons. The colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons. Advent: purple or blue, Christmas and Easter: gold, white, Epiphany and Pentecost: green, Lent: purple, Holy Week: red, except for Maundy Thursday if Eucharist then it is white, Good Friday: black, Palm Sunday and Pentecost Sunday: red.
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 uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Lenten Psalm of The Royal Road

Lenten road,  
  four-laned royal way,  
  lead me to my Beloved  
  in these forty days  
  of prayerful pilgrimage.  
Royal and rich is the roadway  
  of earnest prayer and worship,  
  and blessed are those who travel it.  
They will find in the cave of their hearts  
  the One whom they seek.  
Royal and treasure-filled  
  is the lane of study and reading,  
  hours spent in feeding the soul  
  with food of knowledge.  
  insights in to the divine nature  
  Royal and compassionate  
  is the avenue of alms-giving  
  and of working for the poor.  
Twice-blessed are those  
  who give of self and treasure  
  as a Lenten work of worship.  
Royal and fertile with life is the lane  
  of discipline, fast and abstinence  
  which makes all disciples aware of their dependence  
  on the truest ground of being,  
  carrying every pilgrim  
  homeward bound.  
Spirit of holiness, come to my aid,  
  that I might walk with prayerful passion  
  during these forty days  
  on all four lanes  
  of heaven’s Lenten royal road.

From Prayers for A Planetary Pilgrim, by Edward Hays
Friendship is Love

Friendship is love,
it goes a long way.
Enjoying each other -
making a friend’s day.

Friendship is love
and I’m reaching out,
and having a friend around
is what it’s all about.

Friendship is love,
there’s so much you can do
because your friends are reaching
out in love to you.

Friendship is love,
and you’ll agree
there is nothing more -
   it is the key.

By Janis Lange
We had just had our first "cold" spell of the season in Houston. Having been born and raised near Chicago, I found it quite amusing that the temperature falling to the high 60's was considered to be a cold snap. Everyone it seemed could not get enough of the faint, cool, breezes that? It's almost like each new season is a new beginning of sorts. It's very representation of newness stirs up changes in our souls. Autumn visions of our favorite warm cozy sweater; rich hot cocoa; and steaming hot apple cider spring into action in our hearts.

The Bible also references new changes and beginnings in our lives as being seasons. Seasons are metaphors for God's perfect timing in delivering us through all the changes He makes in our lives. These certain seasons can bring about the blessings we reap from having been obedient in following Him through those changes crooned through the trees. The crisp, new, chilly, autumn air unearthed an enthusiasm and a "get up and go" attitude that had been missing for quite some time. What is it about a simple change in weather that can bring out the best in people even if we did not fully understand or welcome them.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.-Galatians 6:9

This scripture tells us to never give up. No matter how long, strenuous and painstaking the road or trials are in our lives, there is always a new season ahead, a season of new beginnings. Every day we can make the decision to begin again. We can adopt a positive mindset to overcome, conquer, and live triumphantly. All beginnings must eventually come to an end so a new beginning, a new season, can commence. We need to take the opportunity to look ahead at what can be and forget the what-might-have-beens. We can challenge ourselves to be better, live higher, rise above our own self-appointed limitations. We can look ahead to a new season of thinking, speaking, acting and living more positively. Each subtle change we implement towards living a more positive life will eventually take root and manifest itself into our days, weeks, months and years.

A beautiful tree full of wonderful green foliage and rich, ripened fruit can offer shelter, nourishment, and shade, but only temporarily. The leaves eventually turn brilliant hues of crimsons, golds, reds and oranges, offering us a wonderful

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE
spectacle to behold, a brushstroke of genius only God can artfully paint. Then, those leaves must fall, leaving that beautiful tree bare and vulnerable as it must survive the harshest of seasons. The tree must go through that season to begin a new life, a new cycle, with budding blossoms fragrant and beautiful.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.—Psalm 1:3

We need to be incessantly grateful and thank God continually even when our future seems very unclear. We can still stay firmly planted in faith so we will never wither; but always prosper and produce good fruit.

All glory comes then from daring to begin, daring to change, ushering in each new season, and forever trusting God with each unpredictable new step. Never stop believing and growing. We can never fully know what God’s intentions are for us, but we can always do our absolute best with where He has placed us right now. Only then, when we have learned all there is to learn and are truly grateful in this place, this season, will God move us to a new, more bountiful, and blessed season.

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.—Ecclesiastes 3:1

A Prayer for a Season of Change

Dear Heavenly Father,
Just when we settle into a pattern, things change far too quickly.
One door opens, another closes.
We rise, we eat, we sleep.
We smile, we laugh, we cry.
Even change itself is ever changing and’
Lord, if I’m truthful, I don’t like change.
Because I desire the control.
Will you forgive my lack of understanding that Your creation of seasons is exquisite?
Would you remind me that the ebb and flow of life is rippled by the gifts of love and laughter?
And that life is measured by memories, not minutes?
May the season of change fuel me forward towards another beautiful season of the blessing of Your Almighty hand.
In Jesus’ name,
Amen.

- Rachel Wojo
Then Daniel praised the God of Heaven and said: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness and light dwells with him.

- Daniel 2:20-22 (NIV)