A Time for Everything: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

3 There is a time for everything,  
   and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
2   a time to be born and a time to die,  
   a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
3   a time to kill and a time to heal,  
   a time to tear down and a time to build,  
4   a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
   a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
5   a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
   a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
6   a time to search and a time to give up,  
   a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
7   a time to tear and a time to mend,  
   a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
8   a time to love and a time to hate,  
   a time for war and a time for peace.

Call To Worship:

Leader:   Lord of movement, we come today to hear the pulse of your heart.
People:   Help us to hear.
Leader:   With so much noise in our lives, it is hard to hear you above the clamor.
People:   Help us to hear.
Leader:   Creator of all rhythms, send us your cadence and implant it into our very souls that we may know you.
People:   Help us to hear.

Invocation:

God, Maker of the music of our souls, we offer praises to you with melodies that only you understand. Guide us as we sing of your works and open us to hearing the various rhythms that combine in creating the worship that glorifies you. Holy Spirit, infect us with the pulse of life, worship, and praise. Dear Jesus, sing with us as we come together to honor all that has been created. AMEN
Unison Reading:
To everything there is a season, the world around us has a natural rhythm, seasons change, daily patterns are established, all by your hand O God.

You created in us an internal biological cycle of energy and exhaustion, functioning and resting, wakefulness and sleep.

Yet we find that our patterns have changed as we have aged. Perhaps we move slower, or sleep less; we grow frustrated with the change in our daily cadence and we search for the old familiar pace we once had.

Life and death is the progression of our lives and within this cycle there is growth and evolution; a time for everything under Heaven.

Help us to develop the ability to appreciate the changes and to embrace the different rhythms that life provides for us today and tomorrow.

Prayer:
God of all life,

We come to you this day aware of the changes in our world; our bodies; our lives and those whom we care for.

We marvel at the smallest differences from moment to moment and hour to hour. You who cares for the smallest of your creation as well as the largest—animals, plants, humans—you provide for us and nurture us, tending to our health and well being, for we know you only want what is good and right for us in every situation.

Forgive us when we fail to take care of the treasures you have given to us to tend. Help us to see our errors, correct our misconceptions and failures, and provide us with the tools needed to be better stewards of this life.

Seasons come and go. The rhythms of our lives change. Yet our perspectives and our understandings can grow and flourish because you love us and care for us. Guide us through the daily moments large and small, and help us to remember to look for you in all things.

Send your Holy Spirit to us to guide and teach us, as you sent you Son, Jesus, to wash away our sins and provide us with life eternal. AMEN

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Encouraging individuals, families, and congregations to celebrate God’s gift of aging through the observation of Older Adult Month is a ministry of the Church of the Brethren’s Older Adult Ministry. For more information about aging:

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