

Grace Killian: Good morning.

Congregation: Morning.

Grace Killian: Our responsive reading comes from Psalm 145 in your black psalter. Please stand.

Grace Killian: "I will exalt you, O Holy God, and bless your Name forever and ever."

Congregation: "Every day, Lord, I bless you and praise your name forever and ever."

Grace Killian: "Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised. There is no end to your greatness."

Congregation: "One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare Your power."

Grace Killian: "I will ponder the glorious splendor of your Majesty and all your marvelous works."

Congregation: "You will hold all those who fall, you lift up those who are bowed down."

Grace Killian: "The eyes of all wait upon you, O God, and you give them their food in due season."

Congregation: "You open wide your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature."

Grace Killian: "You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works."

Congregation: "You are near to those who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully."

Chorus: (singing).

Sarah Whiting: Good morning.

Congregation: Morning.

Sarah Whiting: I'd like to start with a reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes, the first eight lines of chapter three, which are probably familiar to everyone here for many reasons. "To everything, there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven, a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which 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 cast away stones and a time to gather stones together, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to get and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away, a time to rend

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 of war and a time of peace."

Sarah Whiting: Now, these eight lines might be familiar to some of you here as the lyrics to Pete Seeger's song, Turn! Turn! Turn!, "To everything there is a season," which he wrote in the late-50s. He did footnote Ecclesiastes so I don't think it's appropriate to accuse him of plagiarism.

Sarah Whiting: This song became a number one hit when the Byrds covered it in 1965, making it the number one hit with the oldest lyrics ever. I think that will hold for a long time. Seeger added "Turn, turn, turn," to the first line, which he also used as a refrain, "To everything (turn, turn, turn) there is a season, (turn, turn, turn)," thereby underscoring the message of continuity. Seeger also changed the ending to say, "A time for peace, I swear it's not too late," turning the Biblical reference into a protest song.

Sarah Whiting: Now, I've become rather obsessed about time, and not just because I, like all of you here, never have enough of it. As a Dean, I'm constantly aware of the limits that time imposes upon our curriculum and our pedagogy. How can we possibly succeed in teaching all that we feel is important to teach in the limited time we have with our students? And today, when we're bombarded by information 24/7 and from every moment of our waking lives, how can any one of us succeed in parsing time to ensure that we actually pay attention to what we're doing, whether it's what we're reading, what we're listening to, what we're drawing, what we're saying.

Sarah Whiting: Not taking time is the greatest mistake everyone makes each and every single day. We need to be particularly conscious of a time to get and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away.

Sarah Whiting: I complain about our 24/7 world, but I, like many of you, have become greedy for it as well. What's the latest about X or Y? What? You didn't hear that that just happened now in Z? But this thirst for headlines doesn't quench our need for knowledge. In skimming to acquire all that we can, we short change depth of knowledge, and importantly, depth of exchange. We are all complicated individuals. That's what makes us all so interesting and it's what makes a university such a rich environment.

Sarah Whiting: If we don't make time for ourselves and give time to others, we will devolve as a civil society. We all know that that's already happening. There's no one easy solution, but we all have to learn to be conscious of designing time into our days. And those of us teaching here have to learn how to teach our students the value of time.

Sarah Whiting: Ideally, we would all learn how to conduct ourselves always with deliberation. That is, with consideration, with time. It's probably more realistic to start by building pauses then assuming that we can command all of our time with

consciousness. Morning prayers is such a pause, and a collective pause at that. Let us all find some time this morning, and every morning, for peace. Let us all now pause and reflect. Thank you. (silence).

Grace Killian: Now let us pray together in the Lord's prayer.

Grace Killian: Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Grace Killian: Our hymn this morning is hymn number 12, The God of Abraham Praise, in your red hymnal.

Chorus: (singing).

Grace Killian: And now, may the Spirit of Christ and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all throughout this day. Amen.

Congregation: Amen.