

Cheyenne Boon:

Good morning and welcome to morning prayers. Today's service will begin with a responsive reading from the black Appleton Psalter book, Psalm number 105 found on page 53. Please remain masked and stand as you are able to read responsibly by whole verse.

Cheyenne Boon:

We give you thanks O God and call upon your name. We make known your deeds among the peoples.

Congregation:

We sing to you. We sing your praise and speak of all your marvelous works.

Cheyenne Boon:

We glory in your holy name. Let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice.

Congregation:

We search for you and your strength. We continue to seek your face.

Cheyenne Boon:

You spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to give light in the night season.

Congregation:

You opened the rock and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places.

Cheyenne Boon:

For you, remembered your holy word and Abraham your servants.

Congregation:

So, you led forth your people with gladness, your chosen with shouts of joy.

Cheyenne Boon:

You gave your people the lands of the nations, and they took the fruit of others toil

Congregation:

that they might keep your statutes and observe your laws hallelujah. You may be seated.

CHoir:

(CHOIR SINGING)

Calvon Jones:

Good morning reading from Ecclesiastes chapter 3, a familiar passage. 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 break down, a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh and a time to mourn. Beloved, this text this morning is one that is read at funerals across the world. It is a familiar text that emphasizes the reality of the seasons of life that we all must face. It is a

text that points to the reality of death, a text in the words of Dr. King, that suggests that every now and then we all think realistically about that day, when we will be victimized with what is life's final, common denominator, something we call death.

It is a text that points to the reality of an appointment that we all must meet and it isn't an appointment that we cannot reschedule. I rescheduled a doctor's appointment the other day, and even rescheduled my appointment with my therapist. Yes, this preacher believes in therapy. However, death is an appointment that you cannot reschedule. And this text, certainly highlights that reality. However, a number of preachers, they forget and overlook the beauty of this text. For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter, under heaven, a time to be born and a time to die. In other words, this text is not something to only be read at funerals. It emphasizes the beauty of time. In other words, time is a gift from God. Time is all that we have, and we should use time to the fullest. For in a day, we have 24 hours, 1440 minutes, 86,400 seconds. In a week, we have 168 hours, 10,080 minutes, 604,800 seconds. In a month, we have 1,176 hours; 70,560 minutes; 4,233,600 seconds. In a year, we have 8,760 hours; 525,699 minutes; 31,536,000 seconds. Whew, I'm tired.

Time is filled with many numbers. Time is all that we have, but remember this beloved, time waits on no one. With this gift of time that God has given us, we have been given the responsibility and task to utilize time to the fullest. Time is precious, and we must be thankful for every moment, because as we keep living, time will catch up to us. As my grandmother used to say, I used to be able to jumping down on a basketball court Calvin, but I can't do that like I used to. I used to be able to run a marathon, but I can't do it the way I used to. Time waits on no one. My dear brothers and sisters, with this text, we should remember to utilize time to the fullest. As we continue to navigate these unprecedented times as we go into the holiday of Thanksgiving, think about how precious time is, enjoy the beauty of the sunlight.

Take time to hear the birds chirping. Write that book that you have been wanting to write. Take that trip, you have been wanting to take. Take that risk. Sing that song, write that song. Preach that sermon. Write that album, create that album, travel the world. Be that change agent in your community. Let the grudges go, forgive. Go back to school, invest, leave a legacy. Start that scholarship fund. Visit that friend. Mend that relationship. Spend time with your family. Remove those toxic friends. Live in your truth. Take that Sabbath. Help those who are in need. Be authentic. Live life with no regrets. Time is precious and all that we have. Beloved, it's time now to use time to the fullest. Please stand as you are able and let us pray.

Holy and most merciful God. Help us to embrace the beauty of time. Help us to be all that you have called us to be in your precious and loving name, amen. Together let us recite the prayer that Jesus taught us saying, 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, the power, and the glory forever and ever, amen. Now let us sing hymn #311, Lord, I want to be a Christian.

Congregation:
(CHOIR SINGING)

Cheyenne Boon:

Now as we leave this place, but never away from God's presence. As we leave this place, but never away from God's grace. May you remember the beauty of time to take in every moment to embrace every moment with gratitude. Amen.