

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-12
(NRSV)**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- 2^a a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3^a a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4^a a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5^a a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6^a a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- 7^a a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8^a a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
- 9^a What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live....



Connect Guide

Seasons

Week of Sunday, April 21, 2024

Opening

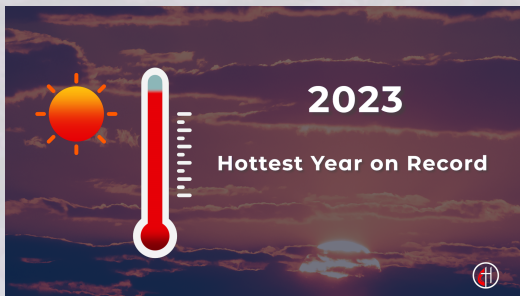
- 1. Pray:** Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and for this group. Help us to lay down any anxiety, fear, and worry we may have. Help your love to well up in our hearts and flow into love of you, one another, and of your creation. Amen
- 2. Share:** What has been one weird weather happening or pattern that has really thrown you off your usual rhythm in the past few years? Why did it affect you in that way?

Dive Into the Text

1. What does verse 11 mean in stating, "He has made everything suitable for its time"?
2. According to this text, how is life shaped by seasons?
3. Pick one of the seasons named in this text and reflect on how you have experienced it in your life, in contrast with its opposite.

Seasons

2023 was the hottest year on record, with the ten hottest years occurring in the past decade. The warming of global temperatures and weirding of weather patterns have been having significant impacts on our lives, the economy, industry, housing, the availability of food, and the survival of species.



Matthew 24:32-35 (NRSV)

³² 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So also, when you see all these things, you know that he* is near, at the very gates. ³⁴Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Go Deeper

Seasons (left sidebar)

1. What is one way that your life has been directly impacted by the weirding of weather patterns in recent years?
2. What has your response been as you have experienced or learned about the impact of climate change?

Matthew 24:32-35 (left sidebar)

3. If Jesus tells us that we are to pay attention and be prepared when we see significant signs of change. What does that mean for us practically?
4. If Jesus' greatest command to his disciples and followers was to love God, love neighbor, and love one another, how can we focus on loving others and creation all the more when the world around us becomes chaotic and unpredictable?

Close in Prayer

Close your time in prayer together.