

Greetings, everyone!

A special hello to all Mothers who are celebrating - and being celebrated - this Sunday. Have a happy day. And love and blessings to all the women who are the mothers in our faith family; those of you who nurture, teach, lead, heal, love, support, and build community with and for us in so many ways. We are grateful.

This Sunday is also the day on the Church calendar that we designate as Christian Family Sunday. And like our personal biological and chosen families, our church family will not be together physically... but we are not apart. Reach out and share some love this weekend. (Just don't touch!) 😊

For some reason, the words of Ecclesiastes have been dancing around in my mind this week. It's a lesser known little book in the Old Testament, but there is one passage that we probably know well. "To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven... A time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance" (3:1,4). If you're like me, your mind might have added the words "turn, turn, turn"... you sixties-child, you!

Verses 1 to 8 of chapter 3 is a beautiful passage that reminds us that everything is in God's hands. Wise words for our time right now. This is all in God's hands; we are not alone. While we might be familiar with this part of the reading, what follows it is perhaps my favourite part. Here it is:

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover God 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. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before God. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

If we believe that it is indeed all in God's hands, why do we stress and worry? We are called to live gratitude, and to find pleasure in our work. And the message of scripture is clear: our work is to take care of each other, the earth, and all living things. As difficult as it might be, we let go of stress and worry, and rediscover our purpose - and our pleasure - in being there for each other.

The gift of these words of wisdom (Ecclesiastes', not mine!), is *not* to give up and just eat and drink without a care. Our "care" is each other. Making good choices that help each other. I heard a great interview several weeks ago, when this all started, with Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. It was in response to other Christian communities continuing to gather in large groups for worship. (I heard one woman tell a reporter, "The blood of Jesus will protect me!") Collins reminded us that God gave us a head with which to think, and placed it in a prominent place so we wouldn't forget to use it. Bless him.

So, the message today? It's all in God's hands. We are not alone. We don't have to figure it all out... but we do have to use our heads. And our hearts. Give thanks for many blessings. Share gratitude. Find pleasure in the life we share, together. Family.

God bless you and yours.

Rev. Steve