

Opening Worship
Annual Conference 2020
A Service of Courage & Remembrance

Centering Moment Ecclesiastes 3.1-8, NRSV

Rev. Stuart Salvatierra

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 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 throw away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, 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 for war, and a time for peace.

Opening Song **And Are We Yet Alive (Together Apart)**

Words by Charles Wesley and Joshua Elder
Music by Johann Nægeli and Joshua Ian Elder
Presented by Joshua Elder, Ian Elder, Nick Rizzo, and Rob Fix
Written/arranged for DSUMC Annual Conference, 2020

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his al - mighty grace!
Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear.

And though we are apart your Spirit reaches out and draws us in
Uniting heart to heart all to the glory of the God who makes us
one.

What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!
Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.

And though we are apart your Spirit reaches out and draws us in
Uniting heart to heart all to the glory of the God who makes us
one.

Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power, which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain, and gladly reckon all things loss to Jesus gain.

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory to Jesus give for his almighty grace that holds us all together!

And though we are apart your Spirit reaches out and draws us in
Uniting heart to heart all to the glory of the God who makes us one.

In the Silence

Pastor Kimber Govett

Turtledove choked just before dawn
So overcome with darkness
That no song could be uttered
No notes of hope to welcome the day
Jackrabbit hid in cactus condominium
Fearful of predators
Of things seen and unseen
Felt easier to stay home
Lizard so parched, so dry
No energy for bugs
No appetite for water
Perhaps it will crack at its core
Or blow away in the next strong wind
Listen. Strain your ears in the silence.
Do you hear ordinary folks humming a new song?
Do you see the star shining a light on your fearsome path?
Do you know that the Prince of Peace offers you living water?
Listen. Strain your ears in the silence.
For even in dilapidated stables
Even in hearts that know threat, failure and grief
Even in the most unlikely circumstances
God's Love longs to be born anew.
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Scripture *Ecclesiastes 3.1-8 (Spanish)*

Rev. Alma Aguirre- Olivares

Blessing of Time, People and Space

Rev. Rula Colvin

We gather across our annual conference, to celebrate the ministries of our conference, districts, churches, members and communities. We gather this year in a way that seems strange and unfamiliar, and yet we know we are connected, because God made

each of us, all throughout the world, for such a time as this. Let us join together in this time of reflection and blessing of our time, people and space across our conference.

Separated in space, yet together in spirit we pray a blessing on the beginning of this time together: "In the very beginning before anything was, before God started doing what it is God does, when all that existed was wide open space, God imagined a universe and began to create."

"There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens." We give thanks for this season, this ministry we do together. Thank you God for creating places for us to be safe as we encounter God's work in the world."

Memorial Images- Mr. Ben Saracino & Mrs. Gayle Remp

Not only did God create a space for us to live and move, "Somewhere amid all the swirling light, inside a cluster of milky white, among stars and planets and cosmic dust, God made a place for the story of us. Because when God made the world, God displayed heaven's glory for you and for me and for all the world's stories."

There's a season for everything: "A time for giving birth and a time for dying, a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted." We give thanks for the people across our conference, meeting today, preparing for an uncertain future where ministry continues: death, resurrection, new growth, life abundant, all continues. We thank God for the people of the Desert Southwest Conference."

Memorial Images- Mr. John MacVean & Rev. Roger Stressman

As we sit in these spaces, connected yet apart, we know that God made each space, each person so that they might experience and enjoy the world: "Because when God made the world, God did all that God could do to create every detail for our joy and our good. Because when God made the world, every creature on Earth became a part of life's circle, having value and worth."

There is a season for everything: "A time for killing and a time for healing, a time for tearing down and a time for building up, a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing." We give thanks to God that God created each of us, in this moment, in these spaces, to interact with

and enjoy the creation all around us. We thank God for the beauty and value of each created thing."

Memorial Images- Rev. Cynthia Langston-Kirk & Rev. Phyllis Ayers Nelson

As we reflect and remember that God made each of us, and it is our differences and uniqueness we know that that is what make us special: "God made people, like you and me. People with souls, people with stories, a global family tree. God made our bodies uniquely equipped for walking and talking, to eat and to skip. God wired our brains to feel love to feel pain, to process and to learn, to read and to retain. Despite all we share, we're also unique. God made us all human with just a few tweaks."

There is a season for everything: "A time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces, a time for searching and a time for losing, a time for keeping and a time to throw away, a time for tearing and a time for repairing." God made us all, just as we are, to be light in the darkness, to be hope in the midst of fear, to be different and unique in the midst of community. And we thank God for creating us just as we are."

Memorial Images- Pastor Mavae Koli & Rev. Sande Kimber

We know that God made each of us, in the space that we are in, uniquely called within our community: "So use every gift, every talent or shtick. Make the world better with your God-given trick. Bring smiles to faces, show love and good graces to those in need hope in all different places. Because all of creation whispers God's story- And just like a star might showcase to us God's light or a waterfall give us a sign of God's might, the same could be said of you and me- how we live, how we love, tells God's story too. Because when God made the world and the world started spinning, the story God wrote was just a beginning."

"A time for loving and a time for hating, a time for war and a time for peace. For such a time as this, we give thanks for the people across these spaces and for the unique gifts that bring light and love to God's creation, since the very beginning it has been so. Thanks be to God for the people and places of the Desert Southwest Conference."

** (Blessing of Time People and Space written by Rev. Melissa Rynders, adapted from Ecclesiastes 3.1-8 and "When God Made the World" by Matthew Paul Turner.)*

Song of Reflection

"A Time Like This"

Words and Music by Rev. David Rennick

Performed by Rev. David Rennick

Little girl saw the doors close today
On that place she called home everyday
And watched a cross fade away.

Said, Momma
What we gonna do today?
Put your mask on
Go out and play
It's gonna be okay.

At a time like this
Don't blink
Or you're gonna miss
Little angels in our midst
At a time like this
Can't you hear them saying
It's gonna be okay - It's gonna be okay
At a time like this

Little girl watched her daddy today
Talkin' to the people
Saying it's gonna be okay
It's gonna be okay
Said, "Momma I'll be right back
Ran upstairs and hugged that man on the neck
Saying, "Daddy it's gonna be okay

At a time like this
Don't blink
Or you're gonna miss
Little angels in our midst
At a time like this
Can't you hear them saying
It's gonna be okay - It's gonna be okay
At a time like this

To everything
There's a season
No rhyme
No reason
To everything
Turn, Turn, Turn
It's gonna be okay.

Little girl watched the world today
Become a place where heroes display
Heart, Hand and Hope
Said, "Momma I wanna be like them
Helping people to believe again
Honey, you just did. [It's gonna be okay]

At a time like this
Don't blink
Or you're gonna miss
Little angels in our midst
At a time like this
Can't you hear them saying
It's gonna be okay - It's gonna be okay
At a time like this

Little girl saw doors open today
Saying,
It's gonna be okay

Blessing

Rev. Kimberly Scott