



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;

Ecclesiastes 3:1-7

Every year when the robins begin to return, and the air warms a bit, I begin to want to plant my garden. Usually, I want to begin too soon - like the middle of March too soon, and my husband reminds me it's not yet time. And I remember this passage. All things happen in due course, at the appointed time and season. As we move into and past

the sixth week of this journey we all find ourselves on, we naturally turn to thoughts of emerging from our isolation. We yearn for the company of friends and coworkers. We itch to leave our home offices. Teachers miss their students. Students (and parents) miss their teachers. As we turn our focus to God and how we can live out God's love for the world in this time of sequestration, we are reminded that, in the words of Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well." In this time of renewal and return of green to our world, may each one of us find the peace and patience to take the time to see the beauty of creation all around us, knowing that our own emergence will take place in due course, when the time is right.

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, mot gracious God, fro the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plans, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever.

The Rev. Ann Marie Hardin