

Pastor Colleen Montgomery

Advent 1 B

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Holy Trinity, Wytheville; 50+40+10 VA Synod Sermon Series

When I was a camp counselor, we used to do a skit that went like this...

[Is it time yet skit? 5 people in Brady Bunch Zoom screens. People are sitting, all with legs crossed. Ask up and down the line: is it time yet? First two times it isn't time. Third time, it is time. All change the way they cross their legs.]

Especially for the camper watching the skit for the first time, they felt the tension build. Time for what? Is it time for what yet?

We all know that feeling of waiting. Of wanting to know: is it time yet? While we may not always have a friend to ask the question to, we do have various ways of figuring out if it is time yet.

Is it time to get the brownies out of the over? Get the toothpick and see if it comes out clean one inch from the edge of the dish.

Is it time to talk to your doctor about a new medication for your [insert appropriate condition here]? The TV commercials would say yes. But consider what your body and your mind say.

Is it time to start a new career? Is it time to go back to school? Is it time to retire? Consider your financial situation, review the goals you have for your life, pray for God's guidance.

While some of these methods are more straightforward than others, we have lots of ways to tell if it is time for many things in life yet.

But not all things. On this first Sunday of Advent, especially the gospel from Mark, ask the question: Is it time for Jesus to return to reconcile all things to back to God yet?

Well goodness, that one is a lot harder.

Jesus indicates that there will be some signs. The sun, the moon, the stars, and the winds will all do their part to show that Jesus is on the way. We're to learn from the fig tree, to be able to tell when Jesus is near. Jesus teaches his disciples to stay awake, to keep alert, for his return could happen at any time.

However, 2,000 years later. We are still waiting. Jesus still has not come back to reconcile all things back to God. Apparently, it is not time yet. We look at the world around us and we wonder, is it time yet? God, is it time yet?

Truth be told, I don't know if it is time yet for Jesus to return. And I don't know when that time will be. However, Jesus reminds us to stay faithful while we wait. To continue to live in God's love and share it with the world. So that leads to some other questions.

Is it time to trust in God's unfailing love and forgiveness for us? Yes.

Is it time to feed the hungry? Yes.

Is it time to free the captives? Yes.

Is it time to welcome the immigrant, the stranger, the widow, the orphan? Yes.

It is time to have the difficult questions about racism, sexism and sexuality in our world and in our church? Yes.

Is it time to continue to love our neighbors as ourselves as we work to make it through a global pandemic? Yes.

It is time to show grace to ourselves and everyone we meet because this year has been so difficult? Yes.

Is it time to make the grace and love of Jesus known to all? Yes.

It is time to be faithful, bold, and serving? Yes.

Even as we wait this Advent season, wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus and wait for Jesus' return to earth, we know that it is time to live out our faith now. We are loved now. We are called to serve now. So we do. It is time today. What comes tomorrow, we'll have to wait and see. But is it time yet to be loved and to love? Yes, yes, always yes. Amen.