

For Everything There Is A Season

This Eucharist draws on the wisdom literature of the book of Ecclesiastes which asks the question as to whether life is just vanity, a chasing after the wind and responds that for everything there is a season and a time. Live in the moment, for life is precious.

Rush
rush
rush
race
race
race
no time to stop
no time to wait
no time to think
no time to play
hurry up
come on
what are you doing now?
can't you see I'm in a hurry?

For is this not vanity and a chasing after the wind?

No
no
no
stop
stop
stop
take a deep breath
and another
that's better
and again
slow down
take it easy
what are you doing now?
can't you see I'm thinking?

For is this not vanity and a chasing after the wind?

Only fools rush in
and make a mess of things
only fools chase after their tail
and accomplish nothing
for who at the end of racing through life
has anything to show for it
all is futile
one works hard
saves for a rainy day
and what is their investment worth?
The stock market crashes

the credit crunch hits
the housing market goes belly up
and the banks have gone bust.

For is this not vanity and a chasing after the wind?

Consider
a generation comes and goes
but the earth lives for millions of years
the sun rises, the sun sets
and returns to the place it rises again
the wind blows south, then north
and circles south again
streams run to the sea, evaporate and fall as rain
and return to chart their course again
what has been is what will be
and what has been done is what will be done
for there is nothing new under the sun
the people of long ago are not remembered
nor will we remember those who are to come.

For is this not vanity and a chasing after the wind?

But for everything there is a season and a time
the cry of a babies first entry into the world
the sigh of a last breath at the gateway to death
the aching muscles of digging and planting and hoeing,
the thrill of digging up clusters of potatoes from crumbly earth

For everything there is a season and a time
from moving on from the past and leaving regrets behind
to embracing a new challenge and taking a risk
a time to demolish and let go
and a time to build and make new friendships

For everything there is a season and a time
weeping tears over Jerusalem as the time has come
to dancing carnival style in through the city gates
mourning Good Friday's silencing of life
to laughing in recognition as Sunday's dawn brings hope

For everything there is a season and a time
for the rolling away of stones
and the gathering of friends together
from embracing and celebrating over a BBQ on a beach
to holding back in recognition that relationships are yet to be restored

For everything there is a season and a time
gathered here is the time to tear bread
in love of the one who first loved us
gathered here is the time to pour wine
and break death's silence with life's chaos

[share bread and wine]

For everything there is a season and a time
so stop chasing after the wind
take a deep breath
and savour life

For everything there is a season and a time
so stop chasing after wealth
look around you
and celebrate life

For everything there is a season and a time
so stop chasing after celebrity
look out into the world
and enjoy life

For everything there is a season and a time
so stop chasing the wind
and savour, celebrate and enjoy
for I am come that you may have life in all its fullness.

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