

# Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

## Lenten Devotional Week One: The Season of Lent

*February 17, 2021, Ash Wednesday*

***Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.***

*Hebrews 10:23*

Lent reminds me that the Lord works in our lives through all seasons. Lent can be sobering, sad, and even dreary. That does not mean that we do not have hope. The Lord through Lent shows that even in our darkness we can hope in Christ. We look forward to his resurrection at Easter, and in our lives we look forward to when we can join Christ in heaven. We can reflect that God loved us so much that he sent his son to the world to live the perfect, sinless life we could not to redeem a people to himself. Jesus did not go begrudgingly. He went willingly because of his love for us and the Father. Jesus did not have an easy life, nor does he promise us an easy life on earth. But we are promised something much greater—that he has prepared a place for those who he has saved. Through Jesus's precious blood we are washed clean from sin. Sin that enslaves us, sin that we were dead in (Romans 6:23). Those in Christ are born again through his work and are now children of God. No more children of wrath. Though the days are evil and some seasons can be trials we have hope in Christ. Hope outside of ourselves, who fail daily. We have hope in the King of kings, mighty God, heaven's favorite! We can trust and rest in the precious Savior who died for his people while we were active enemies of him (Romans 5:10). Praise the Lord that he has done all necessary that we can rest and hope in his wonderful grace, love and mercy.

*Submitted by Lucy Adamson*

---

# Turn! Turn! Turn!

This song [Turn! Turn! Turn! by the Byrds] and the Bible verse that it is based upon [Ecclesiastes 3:1-22] have always inspired me. When we moved to New Kent County from Northern Virginia almost 20 years ago, we were attracted by the rural nature of the County and how so much of life in the County revolves around mother nature and the seasons. As an Elder at my church, I was asked to give our annual Stewardship Campaign talk several years ago, and it struck me how the activity of our spiritual life also has seasons to it. Whether we are parents of young children; raising teenagers or caring for our elderly loved ones, we all experience these seasons of life. We have seasons in our lives where we are blessed with the time to devote to our church, and other times where we can contribute talent or treasure. In our work-a-day lives, the same is true., and it gives me great comfort that our Spiritual guidance is the reliable constant in this turning world of ours. Whether your life is governed by the clock or the calendar, remember that we always have our Creator's guiding hand on the wheel to "turn, turn, turn" our world and make sure that we have the strength and guidance we need to thrive in every season of our lives.

## **Ecclesiastes, 3:1-8 (ESV)**

**3** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
2 a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
8 a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Submitted by Marcia Gardy*

---