

Call to Worship: Mary Ellen intros bells of Our Lady of the Angels

We read in Ecclesiastes 3 that there is a time for everything under the heavens. Tonight we will take a bit of liberty and add to these familiar, alternating, archetypal energies or dynamics that the writer of Ecclesiastes begins with "there is a time for giving birth and a time for dying."

We add tonight...not necessarily in this order...that there is a time for beholding the year passed, its gifts and challenges.....there is a time to be as fully in the present, together, as grace allows...to breathe together, to literally "conspire" in these holy moments...there is a time for singing together, for being silent together, a time for speaking...our joys and sorrows, our needs and hopes as we look and lean into the future.

Now is a time for listening to the rhythms we know so well written in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes.

There is a time for giving birth and a time for dying.  
A time for planting and a time for uprooting.  
A time for killing and a time for healing.  
A time for knocking down; and a time for building up.  
A time for tears and a time for laughter.  
A time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones.  
A time for embracing and a time for refraining.  
A time for searching and a time for losing.  
A time for keeping and a time for throwing away.  
A time for tearing and a time for sewing.  
A time for being silent and a time for speaking.  
A time for loving and a time for hating.  
A time for war and a time for peace.

Reflection questions

Has one or more of these energies/dynamics marked this year for you?  
Which of the above has challenged you? Which have carried or uplifted you?  
What "stones" of any sort would you discard or leave behind.  
Any memory "stones" you would gather to carry into the new year?  
What would you plant this evening for yourself and for our future together?

Silence, then sharing

Having listened to each other, we have now a time for holding what we have thought and felt, what we have said and heard. Once we have sung our song, You Are Mine, it will be time for simply resting in the present, in the quiet together. Let us sing ourselves into an ever-so-gentle silence...as through our song we hear our God claim each of us once again.

Affirmations: see program

And finally, my friends there is a time for leaning into our future. This we will do by proclaiming once again our Wisdom Statement. (See program)

As our Sign of Peace, not just to each other but to our world, let us us sing Let There Be Peace on Earth.

