

The Gift of Time: Points on a Journey, Together

Sunday, January 2, 2011

Church of the Advent, Colwood BC

Rev. Ken Gray *NOTES ONLY*

1) **Christmas Carol** – REMEMBERING A CHRISTMAS CAROL, THE END OF IT

(T)he bedpost was his own. The bed was his own, the room was his own. Best and happiest of all, the **Time before him was his own, to make amends in!**

"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!" Scrooge repeated, as he scrambled out of bed.

2) **O God our help** – LIFE ... IN THE CARE HOME

**Time like an ever rolling stream
bears all our years away
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day**

Psalm 90

... our years come to an end like a sigh.
So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
**Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!**

3) **Creation Story, Genesis 1** – THE GIFT OF TIME

. . . God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

4) **Father Joe (Tony Hendra)** – WHAT’S NEW THIS YEAR? – LITTLE IF ANYTHING

"The world worships a certain kind of newness. People are always talking about a new car, or a new drink or play or house, but these things are not truly new, are they? They begin to get old the minute you acquire them. New is not in things. **New is within us.**

5) **Jim Croce** – A CERTAIN MADNESS WHICH TRIES TO CONTROL TIME

If I could **save time in a bottle**
The first thing that I'd like to do
Is to save every day
Till Eternity passes away
Just to spend them with you

If I could make days last forever
If words could make wishes come true
I'd save every day like a treasure and then,
Again, I would spend them with you

But **there never seems to be enough time**
To do the things you want to do
Once you find them
I've looked around enough to know
That you're the one I want to go
Through time with

6) **Rowan Williams** – LIFE TAKES TIME, JUST LIKE MUSIC

Music . . . takes time, and it arrogantly imposes its time on us. It says, "There are **things you will learn only by passing through this process**, by being caught up in this series of relations and transformations."

Music keeps and is kept by time, and **requires my time, my flesh and blood, my life**, for its performance and reception.

Music . . . obliges us to rethink time: it is no longer time for action, achievement, dominion, and power, not even time for acquiring ideas . . . It is simply **time for feeding upon reality**,

We can know and share in the joy and harmony that is God's eternally only as growing and changing souls, by being **patient with uncertainty**, the need to choose, and **patient with the slow labor of change**.

When we forget this and make a bid for the timeless wisdom of God, we become desperately impatient with the work of choice, the **cost of living in a world where things and persons resist our will**. We turn to the nightmare mathematics that destroys the moral world in "Final Solutions," nuclear terror, ethnic cleansing--in our scramble for purity and safety.

THINGS TO TAKE AWAY

- Time is a God's gift to us
- Life takes time
- Time is our friend, not our adversary