

“God is good...All the Time”

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First Presbyterian Church
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Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 2:1-4

New Testament Lesson: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

During Bible study at LOGOS last week, I told my class the difference between “chronos” time and “kairos” time. The ancient Greeks had two words for time. Chronos refers to a specific, chronological time, which we measure by the movement of the planets around the sun. Kairos refers to an unspecific period of time in which a significant event happens or unfolds.

We as Christians measure “Kairos time” by the movement of the Son, God’s son, Jesus Christ, moving in and around the major events of our lives.

In chronos time, good things happen and bad things happen. We know that. In kairos time, all things that happen work out for God’s good purpose. Or as we’ve come to say in our LOGOS class, “God is good” “All the time.” And all the time, God is good.”

As Christians, we look back on history through kairos time, through God’s eyes. We also peer into the future through kairos time, through Christ’s promise. And we live in the here and now by kairos time, by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, confident that “God is good” “All the time.” “And all the time, God is good.”

In class, we used Billy Joel’s song “We Didn’t Start the Fire” to look back at kairos time. It goes like this: “Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnnie Ray.... Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Studebaker, Television.... North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe....Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis Presley, Disneyland....Moonshot, Woodstock, Watergate, punk rock...” – these are just some of the kairos events that Billy Joel sings about, significant events that shaped our nation and which unfolded during a period of time that only God could foresee or ensure.

We as people of faith, know that God watches over all things and that all things work out for God’s good purpose.

Take this year’s Presidential race as an example. It’s hard to imagine it working out well for anyone. And yet, in faith, we know it will, over time. Or closer to home, we’ve made some changes here at church – going to one service, figuring out the right mix of contemporary and traditional hymns and songs and other parts of worship. For some, this is unsettling. That’s natural.

But in faith, we know the worship and ministry of this church is working out for God’s good purpose. And the one constant that holds it all together is kairos

time. Christ's presence in your life and your presence in the life of the church, as a person of faith, trusting God in all things. God is here for us all along the way. And in the fullness of time, God has ensured that all is well.

Paul knew this. Paul testifies to this, saying, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.... The Lord stood by me and gave me strength," says Paul, "so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it."

Paul is running a race against time, a relay race. And to ensure success, he's passing along the baton of faith to Timothy – and to us – so that all the world might know and love and serve the Lord.

Have you received that baton of faith from Paul? Of course you have. You're here, aren't you? Do you remember when you first received the baton of faith from another person? Think back. Who was that? Who here would like to share about that, right now? – the person or people who were instrumental in your faith development, in your being here today.

So if it weren't for that person, those people, you might not be here today, in church. OK. Now everyone think about passing along the baton of faith to someone in your life. Who is it in your life to whom you are passing the baton faith. For some of you, it may be several people. For others, maybe just one or two. It may be that you can't think of anyone who is being led in the faith by you or seeing the faith in you.

It's not easy to share and nurture the faith in others. We all struggle at that. Paul struggled at that. "But the Lord stood by me," says Paul, and Paul stood by the Lord, at all times.

If we are to make a good showing in passing along the faith we have to stand by the Lord, by serving as he served and by sharing the Good News of the Gospel. As has often been said, "Share the faith, and when necessary, use words." What are some ways that you can share the faith this week with someone in your life?

How about attending the LOGOS Halloween Party and talking to a young person about growing up in the church or how your faith was nurtured when you were that age.

You could help lead a craft or activity at Procter Elementary this Thursday. Or, Pull out the family Bible and show it to your children or grandchildren. Involve a young person in your decision to give to the Hurricane relief effort. Take a child shopping for the Community Services Brown Bag ministry. Fill a gift box as a family for Operation Christmas Child.

No matter how you share the faith with a young person this week, it will be worth your time. We really are running a relay race through time, passing the faith from

one person to another, a race that we will win in the fullness of time, in kairos time, in Christ's time.

While I couldn't buy you each of you an Olympic medal to get you in the winner's circle, I do have a special sticker for everyone here today, to remind you that "God is good..." "... all the time." "And all the time ..." "...God is good."

The ushers will place the sticker on you as you leave, if you'll allow. Then when someone notices your sticker today, -even if they don't say anything; you see their eyes looking at your sticker-take a little time to share the faith, to pass it on. You might even give them your sticker and invite them to pass it on when someone asks them about it.

Tell them about your time at church today. Invite them to join you for worship next week, or for any of our many service activates between now and then. And don't worry about the outcome. Just get in the race, and pass along the faith. And trust God to take all things into the winners circle, in the fullness of time. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

God of grace, we offer our thanks: for all those who have given us the gift of new life, of encouragement and hope; for those who have let us trust their faith when ours was full of doubts; for those who have come to our aid when our lives were spinning out of control; for those who have shown us a light when we were surrounded in darkness; for all those whose names we think of now in this moment of silence, who have sowed the seeds of kindness and love in our lives.

In these moments of quietness, we ask that you would help us to be a blessing in the lives of others.

As you have showered your love upon us, O God, let it be that our lives reflect your love and light in this world.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who came that we might know what a life of love and light looks like, and who taught us to say when we pray ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we
forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.**