

# Kairos—God’s Time

I appreciate having a schedule and a plan for things happening in my life. This is one of the reasons that I follow what we call the “church calendar” or “liturgical year.” While many churches have moved towards organizing around sermon series and secular holidays, I love the rhythm that we keep at Gay Street, shared with many of the Christian denominations and faith traditions. According to that calendar, we are about to begin a new year! Happy New Liturgical Year! (Is that church nerdy or what?) Advent begins our cycle of worship and teaching about Christ. The season begins this Sunday. We anticipate the birth of Jesus during Advent, according to the teaching of the prophets. There is also an added edge of anticipating the second coming, or final actions of God in resolving the fate of humanity. While Peter is talking about that final judgment in II Peter Chapter 3, his words apply to all times, including ours, when we claim once again our hope in Christ and our longing for an end to our struggles against evil and injustice. We just concluded Kingdomtide, the end of the church year. Many years we celebrate on that last Sunday before Advent with “Reign of Christ/Christ the King” Sunday.

Kairos is the Greek word for God’s time, or God’s timing. The church year is something we invented to teach us about God’s timing. God was, God is, God is to come. We cycle through the birth, life, death, resurrection, and reign of Christ every year, reminding us that we are still in the middle of this great story of what God is doing in the world through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The great festivals that we read about in the Old Testament were also yearly reminders of God. They celebrated harvests and gave thanks, asked the people to remember the great deeds of God, and gave them a way as sinners to be reconciled to God.

We human beings need these great times and teaching to remind us of who we are and whose we are. As we go into this very busy time of year there is another feature of Kairos that we must remember: God commanded us to keep the Sabbath, and rest every week, just like God did. Let us observe all the joy, work, rest, and meaning of this time of the year.

*by Rev Karen Oehl*

*I want you to recall what the prophets foretold as well as what the Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles. Don't let it escape your notice, dear friends, that with the Lord a single day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a single day. The Lord isn't slow to keep his promise, as some think of slowness, but he is patient toward you, not wanting anyone to perish but all to change their hearts and lives. 2 Peter 3:2, 8-9*

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