

Virginia Council of Churches  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day – Advent Reflection

### **“The Fullness of Time Had Come”**

*Galatians 4:4-7 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

*<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.*

Time. . . When we think of time, our mind naturally goes to the time that is measured by our watches or our calendars. Time that refers to birthdays and holidays. Time that dictates our daily routines with appointments. Time . . .

Time is usually talked about in terms of Chronos and Kairos. The above paragraph is all about Chronos time. The other time is Kairos. Kairos is the opportune time, the appointed time for the purposes of God to be fulfilled. An example of Kairos time is the beginning of our passage of Galatians, “*But when the fullness of time had come, God . . .*” Kairos time is God’s initiative, performance, and involvement in the lives of his people.

In my mind, I hear the quote from the movie the *Lion King*. “It is time!” I hear God in this passage saying, “It is time”! What is it time for? It is time for Jesus! It is time for the One who will restore the relationship between God and humankind. It is time for the Holy Spirit to be active in the lives of God’s people. The age of “God-in-the-flesh” being present with His people is now!

And because of Jesus, our concept of how we use our time has changed. Because we are children of God, we think about the opportunities we are given to answer the call of Christ and share the grace of God with others in our speech and through acts of charity. “It is time!”

*Thank you, God, for your love for us. Love so deep that you sent your Son, our redeemer, to free us from ourselves and to restore the relationship that you desired. Amen.*



Bishop Phyllis Blair Milton  
Virginia Synod ELCA

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton was elected June 11, 2023, to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop Milton is the first female bishop and first African American Bishop in the history of the Virginia Synod, ELCA. The Virginia Synod is comprised of 145 congregations around the Commonwealth of Virginia.