

*"In Due Season" A Homily by The Rev. Sb. AJ Jonah Buckley
For St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR
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Humans are weird creatures.

No more strange than the rest of the animal and plant world,
but, I say that because we seem to think we are in control of time.

Other creatures do not act the same way.

Let me explain what I mean by that.

It's easy for us humans to fall into the trap of thinking that we know better than God, that our impatience can drive us to think that now is the time, when God always comes in due season, as he did for Abraham and Sarah.

I totally understand why Sarah laughed in disbelief.

After all, she was post-menopausal, so having a child is a biological impossibility, she thinks. But, it is not so with God.

Miracles.

Things that occur that are outside of our understanding of physics and biological possibility and yet they still occur.

Our God is a God of miracles.

There are no lost causes when it comes to God.

All can be, and is redeemed by God.

Let me give you an illustration of what I mean by this in my own life.

It's all those "what are the odds?" moments.

Those times of serendipity.

Those "if I'd come a minute later or sooner things would be so different" moments.

Our life is filled with them.

I have noticed this in tending to my garden this year.

I started it at the beginning of quarantine and have been nurturing and waiting and watching ever since.

I planted asparagus in a trench an inch above the floodplain.

And then, as it does in Oregon in May, it rained, and rained hard.

And, so, there I found myself,

a day after planting my asparagus,

staring at a completely flooded out trench.

I desperately bailed the water out of it and did what I could

to dry it out to prevent the roots from rotting

but I figured the asparagus were a loss in my heart.

My hope was all but lost.

Almost a month went by, and then, just this week....

my first asparagus popped up out of the ground against all odds!

Because God's like that. Nature is like that.

It all comes in due season, not when we want it to do so, which can be annoying.

And, yes, I laughed in disbelief, too,

when I knelt down for my daily check and saw that asparagus popping up.

There are no lost causes when it comes to God.

All can be, and is redeemed by God.

This was true for the disciples, too.

God sent them out, staff in hand, sandals on their feet, to live an itinerant life.

Because God knew that the harvest IS plentiful.

Full stop.

Whether a harvest comes or not isn't the issue.

It will come in due season.

The harvest isn't crops alone.

It refers to the health of communities in body, mind and spirit.

And, Jesus also recognizes that it sometimes might not be the time for folks,

and, in that case, to shake the dust off your feet and carry onto the next place.

There are no lost causes when it comes to God.

All can be, and is redeemed by God.

It can feel hopeless right now.

That quarantine will last forever.

That police brutality and needless deaths of black people will last forever,

that racism, sexism, all this -isms and phobias will last forever.

But, then things like the city council in Minneapolis deciding that they were going to dismantle the police in their city happens.

Things like mass protests around the country happen.

It's never too late with God for things to be redeemed.

There are no lost causes when it comes to God.

All can be, and is redeemed by God.

"The harvest is plentiful.....

BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW. "

Without laborers,

without people willing to go out and do the work,

to invite others who are traveling into our hearts and hearths,

to listen to God's leading, to heal, to teach, to offer our gifts

to the bettering of the world.....the harvest will go to waste.

I think it can be easy to see it the other way around,

that things are limited,

that there is not bounty,

that we need to look out for ourselves and our family,

and others are on their own.

I am always being challenged by God to widen the circle,

to look beyond myself.

Like, I've found with my garden,

it takes the combination of nurturing AND waiting.

This also holds true for many other things in life.

Things come in due season.

This can be infuriatingly not when we want it to be or hope it to be.

God's time is sometimes called by the Greek word Kairos.

Kairos can be understood to mean the fullness of time, or in due season.

On the other hand, there's Chronos, which is time that's like hours, minutes, days, etc. God

works in Kairos, but we see the world unfold in Chronos.

I think that's why we often respond with disbelief when faced with miracles.

Disbelief is a totally honest response to a miracle.

It makes total sense.

There's nothing wrong with being shocked and confused.

But, we must also remember:

there are no lost causes with God. All can be, and is redeemed.