**Midweek devotional At Just the Right Time**

A crazy week. A mob of insurrectionists trying to overturn the election stormed the capitol. Former President George Bush said, “This is how elections are disputed in banana republics.” Thankfully, the situation is under control and the House and Senate will confirm the election today. Let’s pray for wisdom on the part of law enforcement and political figures at this volatile time.

Announcements:

Josh’s mom was baptized on Sunday.

Campus activity 7:30 Friday on Joelle’s zoom.

Worship Sunday 10:30

Leaders meeting this Sunday on my zoom 6:00

Congregational workshop Sat 1/16 10:00-12:00

I may have mentioned first women’s devotional 1/20, but the sisters asked me to push it bac two weeks to first Wed in February.

Hopefully, all Bible groups have been restarted. Ours had 12 or 13 this week, including three new visitors.

Prayer requests

Toney Gomez has had prostate issue for 4-5 months, Saturday he learned he has cancer in his kidney. He will have a kidney removed Tomorrow 7:30 AM

I want all of us to pray tomorrow at 7:30 for Toney!!!

Our theme for the year: Coming Home

We will have sermons, devotionals related to this topic.

Why “Coming Home”? With Covid-19 a few things come to mind:

1. In the next few months, we will finally begin to come together physically. Some are on the fringe. We need to welcome each other home.

2. Brothers and sisters who have strayed. We emphasized this our first 6 months, but we will do this again.

3. We want people to know that the BCOC is their home. The Church, the family of God is their home. People have a sense of emptiness that can only be fulfilled in relationships.

4. Our society will be coming out of a time of trauma and shock due to political unrest, issues around racial justice, but especially from Covid.

A special moment is coming. Most people are simply in shock. Most have no plans. But God is always working. God’s mission is ongoing. This will be a moment—a *kairos.*

People will not go back to where they were. They will be looking for something new. We need to be praying about this and preparing to meet the moment. Let’s pray about this.

We already have specific plans. We will hear about this Sat 1/16.

Lesson for tonight. **At just the right time.**

A special time is coming. *Kairos* In Greek there are two general words for time.

More common *chronos* time of day, how much time do I have.

*Kairos* right time, opportune time, appointed time, at just the right time, special moment in God’s timing, God’s time.

We are headed for a Kairos in our country/world, and in Bakersfield. We need to prepare for that moment in time.

This idea of God’s time, of God’s special prepared moment is biblical:

Old Testament version: Esther 4:14



John 7:6 My time has not yet come.

Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 13:11 We need to understand the present time we live in.

1 Cor 4:5 Judge nothing before the appointed time.

2 Cor 6:2 Now is the time of salvation. There are people out there whose time of salvation has come.

1 Peter 4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God.

1 Pet 1:11 trying to find the time and circumstances to which the spirit of Christ in them was pointing.

2 Tim 4:6 The time for my departure has come.

Rev 1:3 Because the time is near.

Gal 6:9 At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Here is my contention tonight: 2021 will be a year of kairos for many of us individually, for our church and for our community in Bakersfield. We are part of the missio Dei. God is working. He is creating just the right, appointed time.

We will make momentous decisions and changes.

We will shift direction dramatically.

Some of us will be different person at the end of the year than you are now.

What is your kairos? What does God have planned for you?

A Kairos for making a big decision in your life,

to go on a mission team, to pursue a degree,

to lead a Bible talk,

to finally get serious about a particular sin.

to lose weight.

To become a disciple and be baptized into Christ.

To baptize a family member.

Discussion questions:

Q: What can you see God doing in your life this year?

Q: What is your vision for what God can do this year through our church? In your wildest dreams, what can you see happening this year? What do you want me to focus in on? What ministry ought we to start?