

SPRING FORWARD

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher

This weekend the clocks changed. Time moved forward one hour. It happened without most of us being aware of it. We tended to be sleeping, although, unless we have an electronic clock in every room, we probably had to go round the house changing the hands on every clock. I did this at 10pm.

It was probably the next day that we noticed the benefits, with the days stretching out, getting longer and hopefully warmer too. At this time of the year, we long to spend more time outdoors, perhaps in the garden, or at least out walking. This year, things are a good bit different. Yes, the days are still stretching out but our freedom to roam has, understandably, been curtailed.

Scripture reminds us that there is, “a season for every activity under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1- 7) NIV. There is a time for all things. The list in Ecclesiastes is long. In verse 7 it says, “A time to be silent and a time to speak.” I think it could equally be read this way, “a time to be quiet and a time to pray.”

Oh how we all wish we could spring forward and get beyond where we are just now.

Wouldn't it be great if we were already out on the other side of this terrible situation?

Oh how many of us are praying that God will help us to bring renewed order where there is chaos; peace where there is fear, and rekindled hope where there is deep anxiety.

Wouldn't it be even greater if, when the chips seem down, we could truly believe that God is constantly working for our good?

These are indeed challenging times, when we all need to step up to the mark and do what we can to help each other. This will mean staying at home, self-isolating, forgoing planned events, perhaps putting our lives on the front line.

Our thanks are indeed expressed to the many thousands who have sprung into action and are doing everything they can to get us through these unprecedented times, through the giving of their time, talents and possessions.

As we spring forward one hour and wonder what happened to those sixty minutes, let us not forget to take time to pray.



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PRAYER

Time is a precious gift, dear God, granted to us, by you

It should be valued, respected, treasured dearly.

Every second, every minute, every hour and every day

Like well cut, polished, precious gems

Add colour and clarity to our day

Times of sorrow, times of joy,

Times of celebration, to name but a few

Of the memorable moments in life

Are all held safely in the hands of the Master Clockmaker

We need you, dear God, in our troubles, for they are many.

We are burdened with the tragic sorrows of the world,

With the needs and grief of those we love,

And with the perplexities and problems that threaten our lives

Or destroy our peace

When we must choose between faith and fear

Courage and cynicism,

Strength of character and collapse of life

And have no time to dither

Every time, we would choose the better way

Thank you God for being with us, not just at this time

Thank you for being with us every single second of every single day.

Amen

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher

POEM

Time will move on beyond 2020, but how will the year 2020 be remembered? I share these thoughts with you in poetry.

Spring Forward – Beyond 2020

Written by Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher © JWG 2020

In 2030

What will they say?

Why, dear God, didn't they pray?

In 2050

What will they say?

From faith and hope they turned away

In 2070

What will they say?

Let's remember the truths many tried to convey

In 2090

What will they say?

We stand by the values they were proud to display

In 2100

What will they say?

A new way of living was brought into play

In 2120

What will they say?

Pray to God it doesn't happen again in our day