

# ✠ EMMANUEL CHURCH, BEL AIR ✠

31 DECEMBER 2017

A SERVICE OF LESSONS ON THE CIRCLE OF TIME



303 NORTH MAIN STREET -- AT BROADWAY

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[www.emmanuelbelair.org](http://www.emmanuelbelair.org)

Services: Sundays at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and Noon; Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

Centering Prayer & Meditation: Sundays at 1:00 PM in All Saints Chapel

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM and by Appointment



**HOLY EUCHARIST** is the primary service of worship in the Episcopal Church.

At the service we share the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion.

- All Baptized Persons are Welcome to Receive Holy Communion at Emmanuel -

If you would like to receive communion, please come forward to the altar rail, where you may kneel or stand, and hold your hands together, palms up. The priest will place a wafer of bread on your hand. You may eat the bread and take a sip of wine from the cup that the chalice will bring to you. If you would prefer, you may let the chalice dip the bread in the wine and place it on your tongue.

*If you are not able to come up the steps to the altar rail, please have an usher or a neighbor tell the priest and communion will be brought to you. **Gluten Free wafers are now available.***



## Lessons for The New Year

### Reflections on The Circle of God's Times and Seasons

Greeting

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Introduction: The Prologue From the Gospel of John

#### **The Hebrew Year**

#### **Exodus 23:9-16, 20-21**

<sup>9</sup>You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup>For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; <sup>11</sup>but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.

<sup>12</sup>For six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your home-born slave and the resident alien may be refreshed.

<sup>13</sup>Be attentive to all that I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.

<sup>14</sup>Three times in the year you shall hold a festival for me. <sup>15</sup>You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread; as I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt.

No one shall appear before me empty-handed.

<sup>16</sup>You shall observe the festival of harvest, of the first fruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall observe the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

<sup>20</sup>I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. <sup>21</sup>Be attentive to him and listen to his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression; for my name is in him.

## Psalm 119:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose way is blameless, \*  
    who walk in the law of the LORD!
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are they who observe his decrees \*  
    and seek him with all their hearts!
- <sup>3</sup> Who never do any wrong, \*  
    but always walk in his ways.
- <sup>4</sup> You laid down your commandments, \*  
    that we should fully keep them.
- <sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were made so direct \*  
    that I might keep your statutes!
- <sup>6</sup> Then I should not be put to shame, \*  
    when I regard all your commandments.
- <sup>7</sup> I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \*  
    when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- <sup>8</sup> I will keep your statutes; \*  
    do not utterly forsake me.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year: Accept your people who come to offer their praises, and, in your mercy, receive their prayers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Promised Land

### Deuteronomy 11:8-12, 26-28

<sup>8</sup> Keep, then, this entire commandment that I am commanding you today, so that you may have strength to go in and occupy the land that you are crossing over to occupy, <sup>9</sup>and so that you may live long in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sow your seed and irrigate by foot like a vegetable garden. <sup>11</sup>But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, <sup>12</sup>a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

<sup>26</sup> See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: <sup>27</sup>the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today; <sup>28</sup>and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn from the way that I am commanding you today, to follow other gods that you have not known.

**Psalm 36:5-10**

- <sup>5</sup> Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, \*  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- <sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; \*  
you save both man and beast, O LORD.
- <sup>7</sup> How priceless is your love, O God! \*  
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- <sup>8</sup> They feast upon the abundance of your house; \*  
you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- <sup>9</sup> For with you is the well of life, \*  
and in your light we see light.
- <sup>10</sup> Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, \*  
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, the source of all life, giver of all blessing, and savior of all who turn to you:  
Have mercy upon this nation; deliver us from falsehood, malice, and disobedience; turn our feet  
into your paths; and grant that we may serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**A Season for all Things**  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

- <sup>3:1</sup> For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
<sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
<sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
<sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
<sup>5</sup> a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
<sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
<sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
<sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup> What gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. <sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>13</sup>moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. <sup>14</sup>I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. <sup>15</sup>That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

### **Psalm 90:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> **Lord, you have been our refuge \***  
    **from one generation to another.**

<sup>2</sup> **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, \***  
    **from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup> **You turn us back to the dust and say, \***  
    **"Go back, O child of earth."**

<sup>4</sup> **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \***  
    **and like a watch in the night.**

<sup>5</sup> **You sweep us away like a dream; \***  
    **we fade away suddenly like the grass.**

<sup>6</sup> **In the morning it is green and flourishes; \***  
    **in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup> **For we consume away in your displeasure; \***  
    **we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**

<sup>8</sup> **Our iniquities you have set before you, \***  
    **and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup> **When you are angry, all our days are gone; \***  
    **we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

<sup>10</sup> **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; \***  
    **yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,**  
    **for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup> **Who regards the power of your wrath? \***  
    **who rightly fears your indignation?**

<sup>12</sup> **So teach us to number our days \***  
    **that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

In your wisdom, O Lord our God, you have made all things, and have allotted to each of us the days of our life: Grant that we may live in your presence, be guided by your Holy Spirit, and offer all our works to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Remember your Creator Ecclesiastes 12:1-8**

12<sup>1</sup>Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'; <sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; <sup>3</sup>on the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; <sup>4</sup>when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; <sup>5</sup>when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; <sup>6</sup>before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, <sup>7</sup>and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. <sup>8</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

### **Psalm 130**

- <sup>1</sup> **Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**
- <sup>2</sup> **If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O LORD, who could stand?**
- <sup>3</sup> **For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.**
- <sup>4</sup> **I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.**
- <sup>5</sup> **My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.**
- <sup>6</sup> **O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;**
- <sup>7</sup> **With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

Immortal Lord God, you inhabit eternity, and have brought us your unworthy servants to the close of another year: Pardon, we entreat you, our transgressions of the past, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Marking the Times, and Winter Ecclesiasticus 43:1-22**

- 43<sup>1</sup> The pride of the higher realms is the clear vault of the sky,  
as glorious to behold as the sight of the heavens.
- <sup>2</sup> The sun, when it appears, proclaims as it rises  
what a marvelous instrument it is, the work of the Most High.
- <sup>3</sup> At noon it parches the land,  
and who can withstand its burning heat?
- <sup>4</sup> A man tending a furnace works in burning heat,  
but three times as hot is the sun scorching the mountains;  
it breathes out fiery vapors,  
and its bright rays blind the eyes.
- <sup>5</sup> Great is the Lord who made it;  
at his orders it hurries on its course.
- <sup>6</sup> It is the moon that marks the changing seasons,  
governing the times, their everlasting sign.
- <sup>7</sup> From the moon comes the sign for festal days,  
a light that wanes when it completes its course.
- <sup>8</sup> The new moon, as its name suggests, renews itself;  
how marvelous it is in this change,  
a beacon to the hosts on high,  
shining in the vault of the heavens!
- <sup>9</sup> The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven,  
a glittering array in the heights of the Lord.
- <sup>10</sup> On the orders of the Holy One they stand in their appointed places;  
they never relax in their watches.
- <sup>11</sup> Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it;  
it is exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.
- <sup>12</sup> It encircles the sky with its glorious arc;  
the hands of the Most High have stretched it out.
- <sup>13</sup> By his command he sends the driving snow  
and speeds the lightnings of his judgement.
- <sup>14</sup> Therefore the storehouses are opened,

and the clouds fly out like birds.  
<sup>15</sup> In his majesty he gives the clouds their strength,  
and the hailstones are broken in pieces.  
<sup>17a</sup> The voice of his thunder rebukes the earth;  
<sup>16</sup> when he appears, the mountains shake.  
At his will the south wind blows;  
<sup>17b</sup> so do the storm from the north and the whirlwind.  
He scatters the snow like birds flying down,  
and its descent is like locusts alighting.  
<sup>18</sup> The eye is dazzled by the beauty of its whiteness,  
and the mind is amazed as it falls.  
<sup>19</sup> He pours frost over the earth like salt,  
and icicles form like pointed thorns.  
<sup>20</sup> The cold north wind blows,  
and ice freezes on the water;  
it settles on every pool of water,  
and the water puts it on like a breastplate.  
<sup>21</sup> He consumes the mountains and burns up the wilderness,  
and withers the tender grass like fire.  
<sup>22</sup> A mist quickly heals all things;  
the falling dew gives refreshment from the heat.

## **Psalm 19**

<sup>1</sup>**The heavens declare the glory of God, \***  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.  
<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another, \***  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.  
<sup>3</sup>**Although they have no words or language, \***  
and their voices are not heard,  
<sup>4</sup>**Their sound has gone out into all lands, \***  
and their message to the ends of the world.  
<sup>5</sup>**In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \***  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.  
<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens**  
**and runs about to the end of it again; \***  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.  
<sup>7</sup>**The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \***  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.  
<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.  
<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty Father, you give the sun for a light by day, and the moon and the stars by night: Graciously receive us, this night and always, into your favor and protection, defending us from all harm and governing us with your Holy Spirit, that every shadow of ignorance, every failure of faith or weakness of heart, every evil or wrong desire may be removed far from us; so that we, being justified in our Lord Jesus Christ, may be sanctified by your Spirit, and glorified by your infinite mercies in the day of the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **The Acceptable Time** **2 Corinthians 5:17—6:2**

<sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,

and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’  
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

### Psalm 63:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- <sup>3</sup> For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.
- <sup>4</sup> So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- <sup>5</sup> My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- <sup>6</sup> When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- <sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- <sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

### New Heavens and New Earth

#### Revelation 21:1-14, 22-24

21<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.<sup>7</sup> Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.<sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.'

<sup>9</sup> Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.'<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.<sup>11</sup> It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal.<sup>12</sup> It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites;<sup>13</sup> on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.<sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.<sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.<sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

## **Canticle 19**

**O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done, \*  
surpassing human understanding.  
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \*  
O King of all the ages.  
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name? \*  
for you only are the Holy One.  
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \*  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty and merciful God, through your well beloved Son Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, you have willed to make all things new: Grant that we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit, and may come at last to that heavenly country where your people hunger and thirst no more, and the tears are wiped away from every eye; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

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The Rev'd Canon Dr. Mark Gatza, Rector  
The Rev'd Joan Kelly, Deacon  
The Rev'd William L. Smith, Priest Associate  
The Rev'd Paul H. Moser, Retired Rector  
Brent A. Pertusio, Organist-Choirmaster  
Heather Costantino, Christian Education Coordinator  
The Third Saturday Bandddd