

## The Fullness of Time

“The fullness of time”—that sounds serious, like waiting for something that is destined to be. The Bible declares that time is going somewhere and that the world as we know it will not continue forever. God has a plan that will be fulfilled.

Our text today, Ephesians 1:3-14, gives a glorious panorama of God, our world, and ourselves—where we have been, where we are now, and where we are headed. The rest of Ephesians elaborates that plan. Enjoy the panorama with me. You might also want to read it in *The Message* paraphrase and other translations.

*God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing through our union with Jesus. Before God created the world, God had lovingly chosen us and planned for us to be holy and blameless through our union with Jesus. God destined us to be adopted as his children through our union with Jesus. Praise God for this glorious gift in Jesus! We are redeemed through Jesus' death on the cross. Our sins are forgiven! God did this because he loves us. God now reveals his wise plan that previously was a mystery, a plan that God is eager to implement, and that God brings about through Jesus. This is the plan. In the fullness of time God will bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Jesus. Jesus is where all time, space, and being is headed. Love is the foundational reality of the universe. God will accomplish this plan. When we learn about Jesus, trust him, and receive him as Lord, we come into union with him and his people as he fills us with his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that we have a part in this glorious future.*

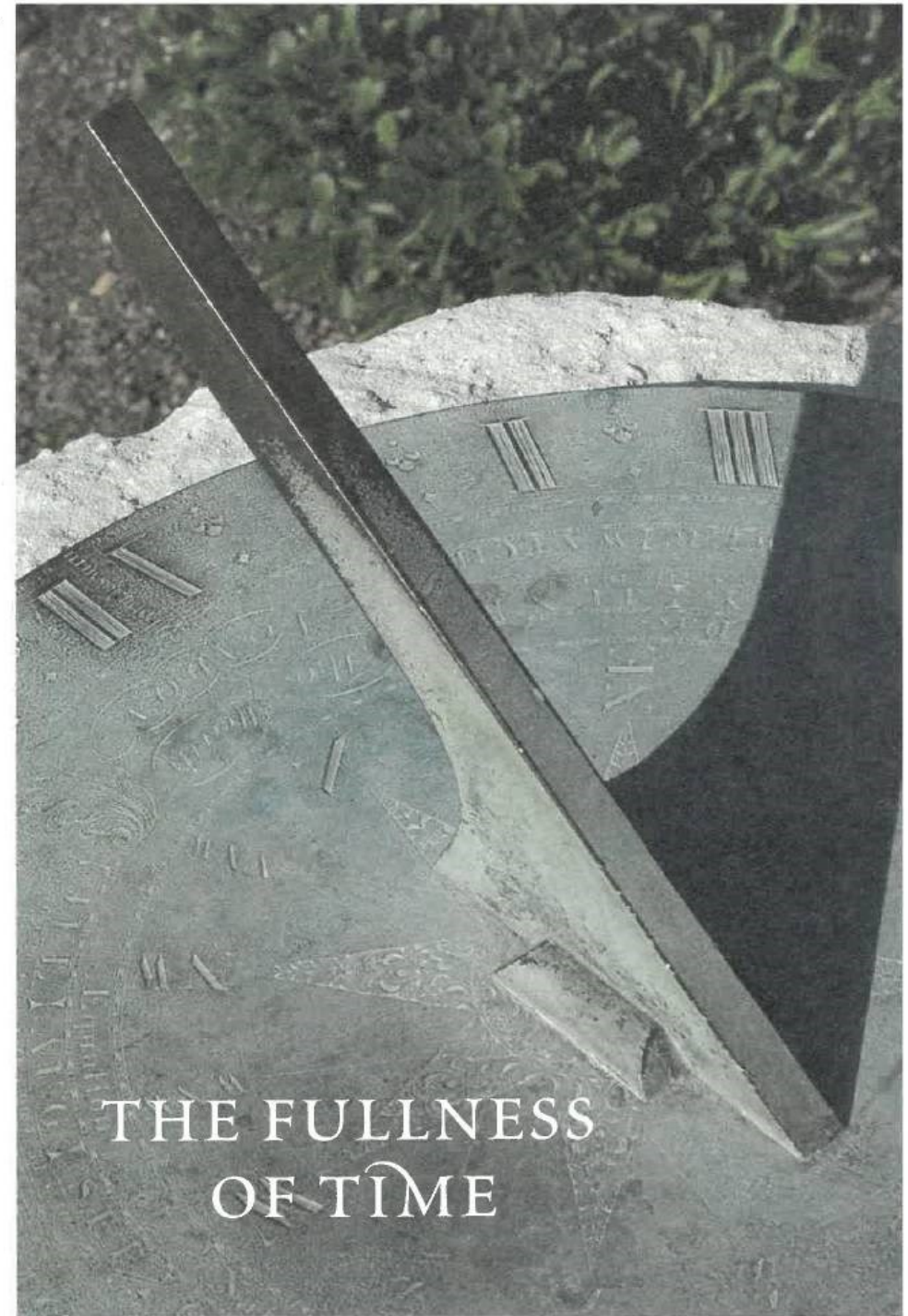
When? In the fullness of time.

—Jim Eikenberry  
Annville, Pennsylvania

“With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for *the fullness of time*, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth” (Ephesians 1:8b-10, *NRSVue*).  
**Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29.

July 14, 2024. Photo © Tim Frye. Used by permission.

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THE FULLNESS  
OF TIME

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

July 14, 2024

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Candice Summers,  
Worship Leader

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE**

“Praise to the Lord the Almighty” (McChesney)  
Handbell Ensemble

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, let us praise God!

All: *Tell us who God is. Tell us what God has done.*

One: God is full of mercy and compassion. God is famous because he saves his people.

All: *God keeps his promises! God cares for his people and we will praise the Lord.*

**\*HYMN #154**

*“This is my Father’s world”*

[Verse 1]

*This is my Father’s world, and to my list’ning ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father’s world, I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas his hand the wonders wrought.*

[Verse 2]

*This is my Father’s world, the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker’s praise. This is my Father’s world, he shines in all that’s fair. In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev’rywhere.*

[Verse 3]

*This is my Father’s world. Oh, let me ne’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong God is the ruler yet. This is my Father’s world, the battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav’n be one.*

**\*UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

*Loving God, how I long to be more child-like in my attitude, with the sort of faith that trusts You like a child, and whose heart is ever open towards You. Teach me, Lord, to live in purity of heart and gentleness of spirit, so that Jesus may be reflected through me, to those with whom I come in contact today. This I ask in His name and for His glory, Amen.*

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**VBS DIRECTOR’S REFLECTION**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to be servants to others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

**Offertory** “God’s Great Grace” (Curtis)

**\*Doxology #119** “Praise God from whom”

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. Lord, we bring before you the common things of our common life: our money, our songs, our labors to be your faithful congregation, our needs and dreams, our joys and sorrows, our selves. We celebrate all this with you, seeking the touch of your Spirit so that we will share more deeply what we are and have with all our brothers and sisters in our city and our world. In faith and gratitude we offer common things made miracles by your grace. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “I Ring My Praise to God” (Starks)  
Handbell Ensemble

**SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES**

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.  
Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.  
An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**SCRIPTURE LITANY: 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

One: Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

*All: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.*

One: Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

*All: Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

One: Even children make themselves known by their acts, by whether or not what they do is pure and right. Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

*All: 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."*

One: He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

*All: That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,*

One: So that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their ancestors, a stubborn and rebellious generation.

*All: The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.*

**MESSAGE**            "Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus"    Pastor Twyla Rowe

**PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN**

**\*HYMN**                    "This little light of mine"

**\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

*Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

**\*POSTLUDE**            "To the Glory of God"                    (Peterson)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.  
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**SEEKERS in  
SNEAKERS**  
Discover Jesus!

Hagerstown  
Church of the Brethren  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown, Maryland  
21740  
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday  
Flexible hours  
(appointments welcome/  
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship  
at 8:30 AM  
Sunday School at 9:30 AM  
Worship and Facebook Live  
at 10:45 AM

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

[www.facebook.com/  
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe  
Pastor

Allyson McPeak  
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Don Rowe  
Interior Esthetics  
Technician

*We welcome you to our church and  
Rejoice in your participation with us in  
worship. It is our prayer that you will  
experience the presence of God's Spirit and  
that it will equip you for service and ministry  
in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons, and  
Cluster Leaders are available after worship  
and during the week to listen and assist you in  
your Christian pilgrimage.*

**THE ANNOUNCER      July 14, 2024**

**If you placed someone** on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

**If you or a loved one** has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

**"Take a Moment"** Let this be our daily "Take a Moment" prayer for the week beginning, Sunday, July 14 - Father, I pray that each child you have blessed us with knows you and knows their full worth and identity in You. I pray that you help them grow in your wisdom and power, give them the spirit to discern between good and evil. Guide them to make good choices. Bless their way and order their steps so they are not lost. Let them be Seekers of your Word and that they will turn to you in their time of need or in their time of rejoice. We are all invited to follow Jesus, and we all need people to come alongside us as we live, learn and grown in faith. Let us be that for our children. Lord, thank you for our children. Amen.

*Written by Allyson McPeak*

**Our thanks** to Candice Summers for being our worship leader today, to the Handbell Ensemble for special music this morning, and a special thank you to all of our VBS Teachers and Helpers.

**We welcome a new summer edition** of handbells to our service this morning, the ensemble is under the direction of Becky Jackson.

**Attendance.** Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

**Attention!** The Altruistic Room is currently unavailable for use. Please do not enter or use the room until further notice. Thank you!

**The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings** will be held today. The screenings will take place in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:30 AM Morning Praise Worship Service and in the Mullendore room before the 10:45 AM worship. Screenings are held the second Sunday of each month.

**Junior Church** will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a special time together. (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

**HCob Student Scholarship Fund**—The Service & Outreach Team is inviting students to apply for our yearly distribution of funds from the Student Scholarship Fund. A letter of interest needs to be addressed to Suzie Wolfe, Chair, by August 31, 2024. Please include where you will be attending and what your major is. Also, please include the school's address.

**Newsletter Deadline!** All articles should be submitted to the Administrative Assistant **no later than July 15th.** Thank you!

**Fellowship Time** — We're in need of volunteers to provide goodies for Fellowship Time, held the first Sunday of each month from 10:20 am—10:40 am. Goodies may be your favorite recipe or a delicious store bought treat. Suggestions include cookies, muffins, or doughnuts (3-4 dozen of whatever you choose) and may be dropped off in the Mullendore Room (the room behind the wing of the sanctuary) that morning. Beverages and paper products are provided. Please sign up on the sheet located in the west entrance, or contact Kristal Bricker or Amy Hardy. Thank you for helping to make Fellowship Time possible!

**Annual Conference 2024 has concluded.** Go to [www.brethren.org/ac2024](http://www.brethren.org/ac2024) for conference information. There is generally a conference wrap-up posted a few days after the closing session.

**Children's Disaster Services Volunteer Trainings** will be held in Frederick, Maryland, Friday, September 27th and Saturday, September 28th. This training equips volunteers with the skills needed to understand and respond to children in disaster situations. If you would like more information on this event, a CDS flyer can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall. You can also register for the event at: <http://www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html>

**Field of Hope/Growing Project.** Field of Hope pledge forms can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall for anyone desiring to make a pledge.

**Cash for Causes/Martin's Gift Card Program.** Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution. To purchase a card, please contact Larry Kees, Jr. (301-331-0107). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

**The Church Directory.** Now is a good time to update your information in the church directory. Please send any changes/updates/additions to [secretaryhcob@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com), or leave a note in Allyson's mailbox. Also, if you're not on the birthday and anniversary lists, please email that information, too! Please include the year, even though it is not published. If we don't have the year, that piece of software defaults to the year 1900. Thank you!

**When you leave items at the mailboxes** for someone else to retrieve, please call or email them to alert them the item is there. Remember you may need to follow up with them to make sure they've gotten the item. Thank you!

**Warm, sunny weather is here!** We want to take this opportunity to remind you that in the warm weather many of the neighborhood children ride bikes, trikes, skateboards, and scooters, on our parking lot. They're often low to the ground and moving fast so please be on the lookout for them when you visit the church. When on foot, please also be on the lookout for cars speeding through the parking lot to "beat the light" at the corner.

**Please remember** to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or [secretaryhcob@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com).** Thank you!

## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, July 14**

Junior Church  
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

### **Monday, July 15**

Church office closed  
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

### **Tuesday, July 16**

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/HCOB  
5:30 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Wednesday, July 17**

10:30 am Caring & Sharing/Mullendore Room  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
6:30 pm GriefShare Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Thursday, July 18**

6:30 pm HCOB Softball/Field 1

### **Friday, July 19**

8:00 am Bulletin prep. Time/Church office  
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

### **Saturday, July 20**

Pastor Twyla's day off

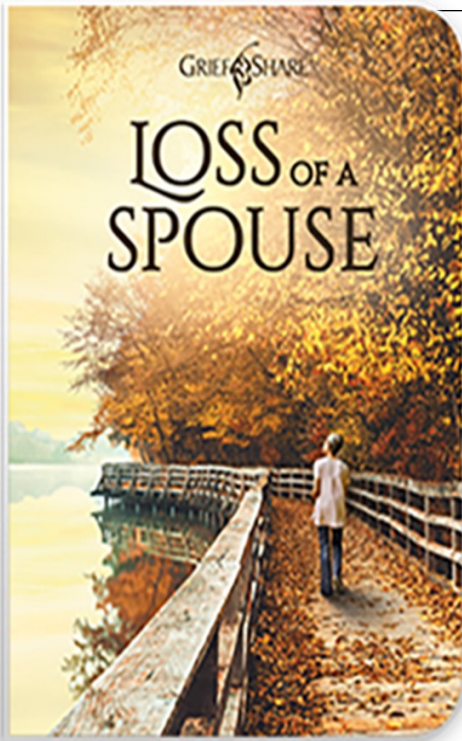
### **Sunday, July 21**

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

*Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.*

You may mail your offering to  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
OR  
you can make a secure offering  
donation on our website using  
PayPal [www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

The church calendar is online at  
[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org).  
Click the calendar tab.



**Grieving the death of a spouse?**  
*Or do you know someone who is?*

The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. People who are widowed haven't just lost a loved one—they've lost an entire lifestyle once enjoyed with that special person.

We hope you will consider joining the HCOB GriefShare Team for a special 2-hr seminar which will address the challenges of this type of loss.

You may wish to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you. If you have questions, please see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

Date: Wednesday, August 21  
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Place: Mullendore Room

Register at [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org)



Our Vacation Bible School this year is collecting money to benefit Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Another way to help this outreach is by volunteering to help deliver beds to those in need. There are currently 50 to 60 kids on the waiting list. **The next bed deliveries are taking place on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>. Drivers and helpers are needed.** If you would like to help, please sign up at the links listed below.

For the summer months deliveries will be held in the morning. The trucks are loaded at the warehouse, 87 W. Lee Street, Hagerstown. Then the teams deliver the beds to the children's homes.

Here are the sign up links:

**TRUCK driver for Friday, July 19** at 8:30 am, please use this sign up:  
<https://x.gldn.io/e/G8z2clzYFKb>

**HELPER for Friday, July 19** at 8:30 am, please use this sign up:  
<https://x.gldn.io/e/a6oBx1KYFKb>

**TRUCK driver for Saturday, July 20** at 8:30 am, please use this sign up:  
<https://x.gldn.io/e/rX3kryUYFKb>

**HELPER for Saturday, July 20** at 8:30 am, please use this sign up:  
<https://x.gldn.io/e/e9PfO91YFKb>

**TRUCK driver for Saturday, Aug. 10** at 8:30 am, please use this sign up:  
<https://x.gldn.io/e/J22qhhgZFKb>

**HELPER for Saturday, Aug. 10** at 8:30 am, please use this sign up:  
<https://x.gldn.io/e/m2Fxmz9YFKb>

Thank you for your help in completing the circle of getting beds delivered to the kids who need them. You will be rewarded by the smiling faces of kids and parents.

If you have questions, please direct them to Jenny Ferguson.