



# In Good Time

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We talk about 'good time' in lots of different ways. In the present we talk about having a good time. In the past we look back to the good times, sometimes 'the good old days'. In the short term we talk about it being 'a good time' to act, the timing is right to do something, and in the longer term we talk about things happening 'all in good time'. But what makes these times *good*? What makes this current moment good? What makes our memories good? How do we know when the time is good to act? And when exactly will we reach 'all in good time'?

Our God is the God of all time and all times. Good times and bad times. The passage of time weighed and balanced through the universe – measured in revolutions of the Earth – gives us a way of moving and understanding movement, of perceiving the world. Time flows and we flow with it! We're not static and neither is God. God is always moving. What does it mean to move through time with God, someone who is beyond our understanding of time? God has a unique perspective on our memories of the past, longings for the future, and experiences in the present.

Can becoming more self-aware and God-aware help us to rediscover the good times? Can being open to the working and moving of the Holy Spirit help us to act in good time? Can striving and persevering and finding our flow state help us to have a good time? Do the acts of celebration and worship in our lives give us a glimpse of what 'all in good time' could mean for us? And, when is it a good time to turn to God?

To explore this we are going to be doing something special and a little bit different...

For each of the five weeks of this theme we are going to be diving into the archive and selecting a past week of Daily Worship to revisit. Our writers for July will take us back in time as we meditate on time itself! As we consider what it means to live in 'good time' we have an opportunity to slow down and to discover or rediscover some fantastic writing. We might catch things we missed first time around or read things that totally passed us by. Time flows, but not always in a straight line...

So, this resource pack is a compilation that will reprise and refresh the daily prompts and readings from those original weeks.

As time flows and we flow with it we have picked up on a common thread to do with movement. We begin by thinking about how we are not stuck, we are on a trajectory, we are called, we are going somewhere! Then we think about the Holy Spirit who hovers over the water of time moving in our world spurring us on to good things. We'll think what it means to strive and persevere in the current moment, the focus that sport and activity give us to surf on the wave of this current moment. Then we'll think about the invitation we receive to celebrate, to dance, to *be*, and finally what it means to emotionally, spiritually *and* physically turn to God.

In time, out of time, on time and all in good time.

With thanks again to our Daily Worship writers.

*Each week of the five week theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and prompts for thought, extracted from their original themes and represented here in an updated form.*

## Being self aware and God aware (3 July)

God calls you as you are. Not as you will be, not as you once were – but just as you are – reading this right here and now. You don't have to prove anything. But that doesn't mean you're stuck the way you are. You're not static and with Jesus's help you can grow into a new identity that is still you, that is in fact, a fuller realisation of who you really are!

In this confidence we can start new adventures and let go of old things, rediscovering good times and goodness through time. As time flows we flow with it realising who we are by the grace of God.

*(This material was drawn from the Holy Endings theme.)*

1. 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

2. Psalm 139: 1-6,  
13-18

3. 1 Corinthians 6:  
19

4. John 1: 43-51

5. John 15: 9-17

6. Ephesians 1: 4-7

7. 2 Corinthians  
5:17

1. **God calls us as we are**, sometimes in unexpected ways.

2. **God knows us better than we know ourselves**, we can trust that we are known, that we are understood.

3. **Rediscovering who we really are.**

4. **God knows us** and so we can move forward with God.

5. **We are chosen** — God has chosen you, wants to be friends with you, what makes you *you* matters to God.

6. **It takes trust to be able to let go of something.** In the trust of the call and redemption of God we can learn to let go — to loosen our grip.

7. **You are a new creation.** The old creation has passed away. You can let go of parts of who you are — not deny them or hide them, just gently let them go.

## Sweeping over the void (10 July)

Thinking about the Holy Spirit sweeping over the void and creating community and meaning, removing emptiness. Creating a world that was good. The Great Commission – going out into the world, bringing order out of chaos. The Spirit moves in the world through people to continue his purpose.

Paying attention to the Holy Spirit can help us act in good time, in God's time.

*(This material was drawn from the Swept Away theme.)*

1. Genesis 1: 1-5
  2. Psalm 8
  3. 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13
  4. Matthew 28: 16-20
  5. Romans 8: 18-30
  6. Psalm 104: 24-30
  7. Exodus 31: 1-11
1. **Sweeping over the waters.** So it begins.
  2. **Sweeping through all the earth.** God's name.
  3. **Sweeping peace.** A final word.
  4. **Sweeping out.** The Great Commission sets off.
  5. **Sweeping throughout creation.** Creation waits.
  6. **Sweeping through life.**
  7. **Sweeping the workshop floor...**

## Striving and persevering — Games as training (17 July)

Games and sports are often tests of our physical and mental endurance. Can we keep up, can we break ahead, can we push that last inch? This week our Bible readings and prompts focus on the idea of sports and games as ways of training ourselves to persevere that bit further, to give that bit more.

As we revisit this sporting theme it is compelling to think about metaphors of personal bests and pacing as we consider what it means to live in good times, with our loving God keeping time.

*(This material was drawn from the Game On theme.)*

1. **2 Kings 2: 1-14**
  1. **Chariot of fire!** What powerful language that captures the irresistible momentum of Elijah being swept into heaven, leaving Elisha in the dust. This phrase inspired a line of William Blake's poem *Jerusalem* and the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire* that tells the story of Scottish Christian runner Eric Liddel.
2. **Psalm 77**
  2. **Digging a little deeper.** The psalmist, in a time of trouble, gets motivation by reaching out to God. Many of us when pushing against our limits when playing an intense sport find ourselves recalling past experiences to give us the strength to continue.
3. **1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21**
  3. **Relay — passing on the mantel** A lot of games and sports feature a passing on of the baton — here we recall Elijah passing on his mantle to Elisha. Is there something inherent in games and sports that trains us to let go and move on, having made our contribution?
4. **Psalm 16**
  4. **Hiding out in the den.** Long days of summer for children often means hours of games outside, exploring new places and perhaps making dens to hide in. For children dens and hiding places are often part of the adventure — and so it is with God — we can take refuge in the midst of life's adventure to hide in God's love for us before hurtling off to the next escapade on the path of life.
5. **Galatians 5: 13-25**
  5. **Good sportsmanship.** Playing well together cultivates the fruit of the Spirit — games give us ways of practicing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
6. **Luke 9: 51-62**
  6. **The clock is ticking.** Games can teach us the importance of using time wisely. When you kick off the blocks you have to be fully committed and keep your head in the game, making the right priorities.
7. **Hebrews 12: 1-3**
  7. **Jesus: pioneer, perfecter, pacemaker!** Jesus helps us push that bit further. With Jesus setting the pace where might we end up?

## Wedding, wine, wings, and worship! (24 July)

A week of vivid imagery to inspire us as we re-imagine church in the context of God's time. We contemplate joining together, things being more than the sum of their parts, and generosity.

Do the everyday and extraordinary acts of celebration and worship in our lives give us a glimpse of what 'all in good time' could mean for us?

*(This material was drawn from the Re-Imagining Church theme.)*

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| 1. Isaiah 62: 1-5         | 1. <b>What's in a name?</b>  |
| 2. Psalm 36: 5-10         | 2. <b>Taking 'refuge in the shadow of your wings'.</b> Steadfast love. |
| 3. 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 | 3. <b>Individual gifts. Common good.</b>                               |
| 4. John 2: 1-11           | 4. <b>A generous wedding party.</b> Fill the jars with water...        |
| 5. Acts 2: 44-47          | 5. <b>'...as any had need...'</b> Having glad and generous hearts.     |
| 6. Isaiah 55: 1-6         | 6. <b>Without money and without price?</b> Nourishment.                |
| 7. Revelation 22: 16-17   | 7. <b>An open invitation.</b> Welcoming.                               |

# Turning to God (31 July)

Many parts of Christianity — from kneeling to pray, or approaching a communion table, or even going on a pilgrimage — are acts of physically turning towards God. God is not located in any one particular place but by turning intentionally to focus our minds, we are in a sense turning to face God. Our bodies and minds are closely connected and physical movement can concentrate our attention.

When do we find the time to emotionally, spiritually and physically turn to God? And what happens when we do?

*(This material was drawn from the Ready Pilgrim theme.)*

1. Psalm 138
  1. **Bowing down.** Think about the physical act of bowing down in verse 2. What happens when we literally move our bodies, to turn towards God?
2. 1 Samuel 8: 4-20
  2. **The consequences of turning away from God and towards an earthly king.** What are we moving towards?
3. Genesis 3: 8-15
  3. **Shame can make us physically turn away.**
4. Psalm 130
  4. **Prayer as echolocation** — sending out cries to find God.
5. 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
  5. **Even when** the physical and material let us down we can still turn to God.
6. Mark 3: 20-35
  6. **Turning towards God might require us to turn away from what we've known.**
7. 2 Kings 17: 34-41
  7. **To whom or what do we bow?**