

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Many people around the world rejoiced when Joe Biden was declared the winner of the 2020 Presidential election in the United States. And I have to admit, I was one of them.

Some of us remember the 1960 election where many people thought John F. Kennedy would never be elected president solely because he was a Roman Catholic. We sure have come a long way since then! Biden's Roman Catholic religion didn't seem to be an obstacle to his election. On the contrary, his message of inclusion, reconciliation, and healing was very appealing to a nation rife with division and hate.

However, I was truly amazed with the spirituality embedded in the victory speech he presented on Saturday night. It strongly reflected his deep-rooted Christian values.

He quoted from Ecclesiastes 3, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven", while emphasizing this is a time to heal.

He mentioned how people need to restore the soul of America. He said, "Our nation is shaped by the constant battle between our better angels and our darkest impulses. It's time for our better angels to prevail."

He quoted from a hymn that he said "captures the faith that sustains me and which I believe sustains America." "And he will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, and make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of his hand." Then he said, "Together on eagles' wings, we embark on the work that God and history have called us to do."

And he wasn't finished yet...he recalled how every time he left his grandparents' house, his grandfather would say, "Joey, keep the faith." Then his grandmother would say, "No, Joey, spread it."

The positive tone of his message was very uplifting, and it made me think about our current situation here on the Bruce. We have many reasons to be optimistic! "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven" ....This year was certainly the time for Covid-19 and our active responses to it. We, also, are relying on our faith to sustain us and to help us accomplish the work that God has called us to do. Thank goodness we don't have to do it alone. We have our angels, too.

Our church buildings may be closed, but we can still worship together. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20 Maybe living through this difficult time will help us realize more fully that we are the church.

When we gather together, although it is virtually, we are still worshipping, praising God, hearing his Word. And God has assured us that He is with us.

With our services, meditations, and group meetings, we are helping each other to "keep the faith." With our virtual services available on-line, the internet is helping us to "spread the faith."

Let us pray that the newly-elected President's faith and commitment to Christian values will positively influence others, including ourselves, and bring more peace and justice to the world.

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