

Devotion, Week of September 28, 2025

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

It's that time of year again. The Joro spiders (invaders from Asia) have all of my entrances blocked with webs I have to tear down to get in and out of the house. They can rebuild them within hours, so I'm currently at war with them. The black walnuts are falling from the tree at church and if you park in my parking spot, your car is in danger of receiving big dents. The acorns are starting to drop on my cars in the driveway at home, with loud bangs. When my brother was here, he asked me if I'd been in a hail storm! The leaves are falling faster than we can blow them off the driveway. It's fall – and that term is so appropriate!

Cooler mornings, afternoons beginning to not be so hot, and I'm beginning to look with longing at my sweaters, because I LOVE sweaters. The air conditioning rarely runs and we don't need the heat yet, so our power bills will be lower this month. I'm waiting on the leaf color to pop into reds and oranges. It's still pretty dark now when I get up, and that confuses my body clock. And the tropical storms/hurricanes have popped up.

It's a time of change. There is a time for every season, as Ecclesiastes says, and each of those seasons offer blessings from God's creation and from the rhythm of our days. I love the "equinox" seasons, when days approach equality in day and night, and the earth prepares for summer or winter. It's somewhat of a liminal time – the heat and green leaves of summer begin to fade, and in the spring the new growth begins to bud. As we enter the fall, with our Homecoming celebration and Thanksgiving, we are beginning to look toward the new liturgical year, that begins with Advent. In the spring, with Lent, we look toward Easter and Pentecost. Each of these seasons of preparation it is time for us to prepare ourselves for a renewed sense of service to God and our community, and to reflect on where the heat of summer and fruitfulness has brought us in our faith journey. I hope as we move into "sweater" weather, that you will wrap yourself in the warmth of God's grace and spend some time reflecting on this season of changing color and daylight and temperature.

Jeanne