



**Lenten Reflection for Friday, April 1st**  
Audrey Whitworth

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

**John 7:1 - 10, 14 - 18, 25 - 30**

*After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing; for no one who wants to be widely known acts in secret. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." (For not even his brothers believed in him.) Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify against it that its works are evil. Go to the festival yourselves. I am not going to this festival, for my time has not yet fully come." After saying this, he remained in Galilee. But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret.*

*About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. The Jews were astonished at it, saying, "How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?" Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him. Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.*

Jesus tells his brothers “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.”

Whew! If you are like me, time is precious but also intimidating. My time is what I make of it. Since I retired almost 4 years ago I’ve theoretically had all the time in the world. No job schedule that gives my days structure, time to do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. I had travel plans, time to give to Holy Apostles, time to exercise, and my son’s wedding to look forward to. And I enjoyed it. And then came the forced time out of the pandemic.

One constant during that period was the solace and structure Holy Apostles provided. I recorded songs for virtual choir, attended Zoom church, participated in book readings, filled school supply bags for P.S. 15. It was a much needed positive focus amid all the turmoil of 2020 and beyond. Now I’m optimistic and excited about “getting back to normal” but also intimidated by what to do with my time now that the only limitations are those I put on myself. What would I have been doing these last two years had the pandemic not happened? The interruption has left me a little adrift. It doesn’t feel possible to just pick up where I left off or fill my days with random activities. My time is always here - can I use it purposefully?



*Audrey Whitworth is a long-time parishioner at Holy Apostles, currently on the Bishop's Committee and formerly Co-warden. She splits her time between Windsor Terrace and Ulster Park, NY with her partner George and enjoys spending time with her son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Meredith and grandson Liam. She looks forward to meeting her new grandchild in September.*