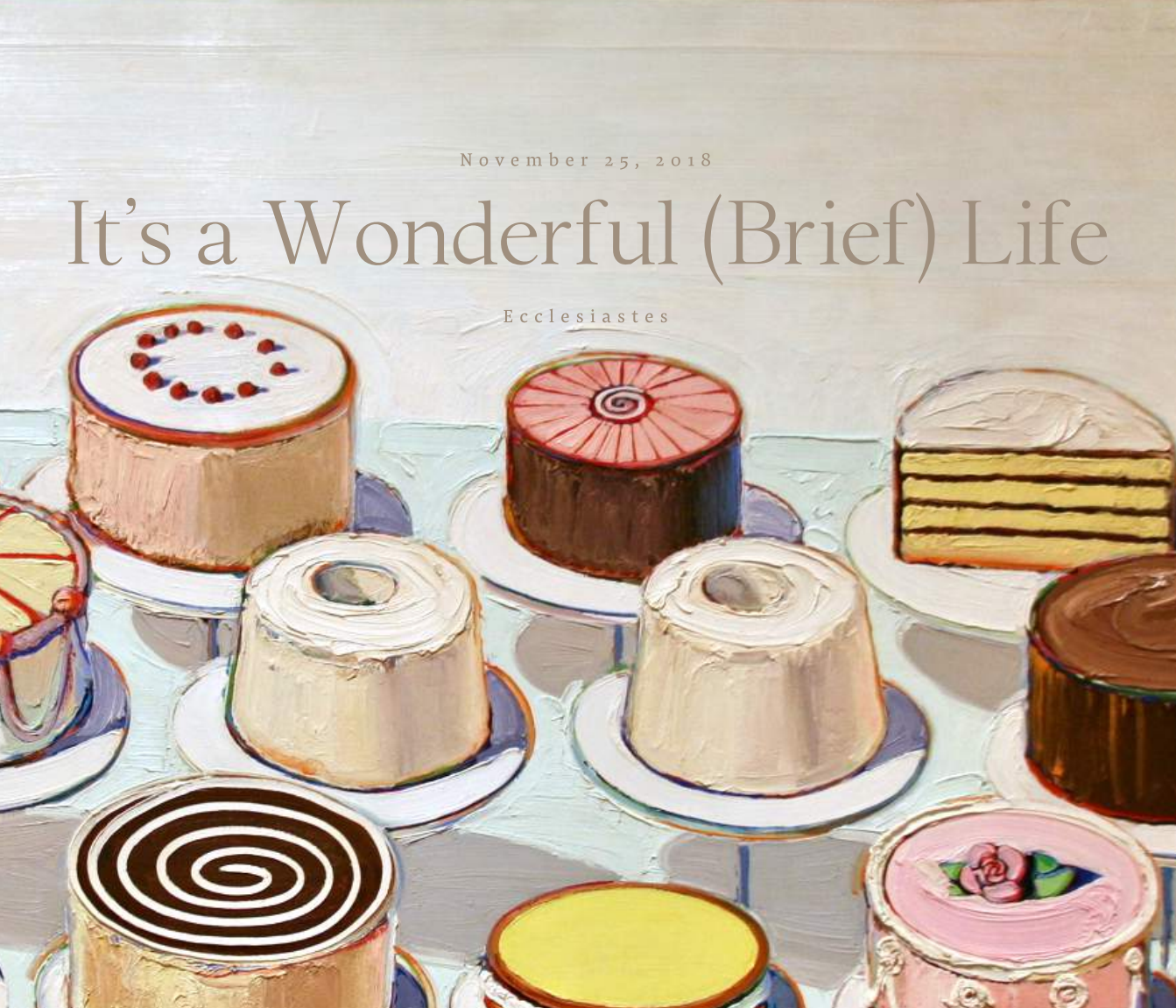
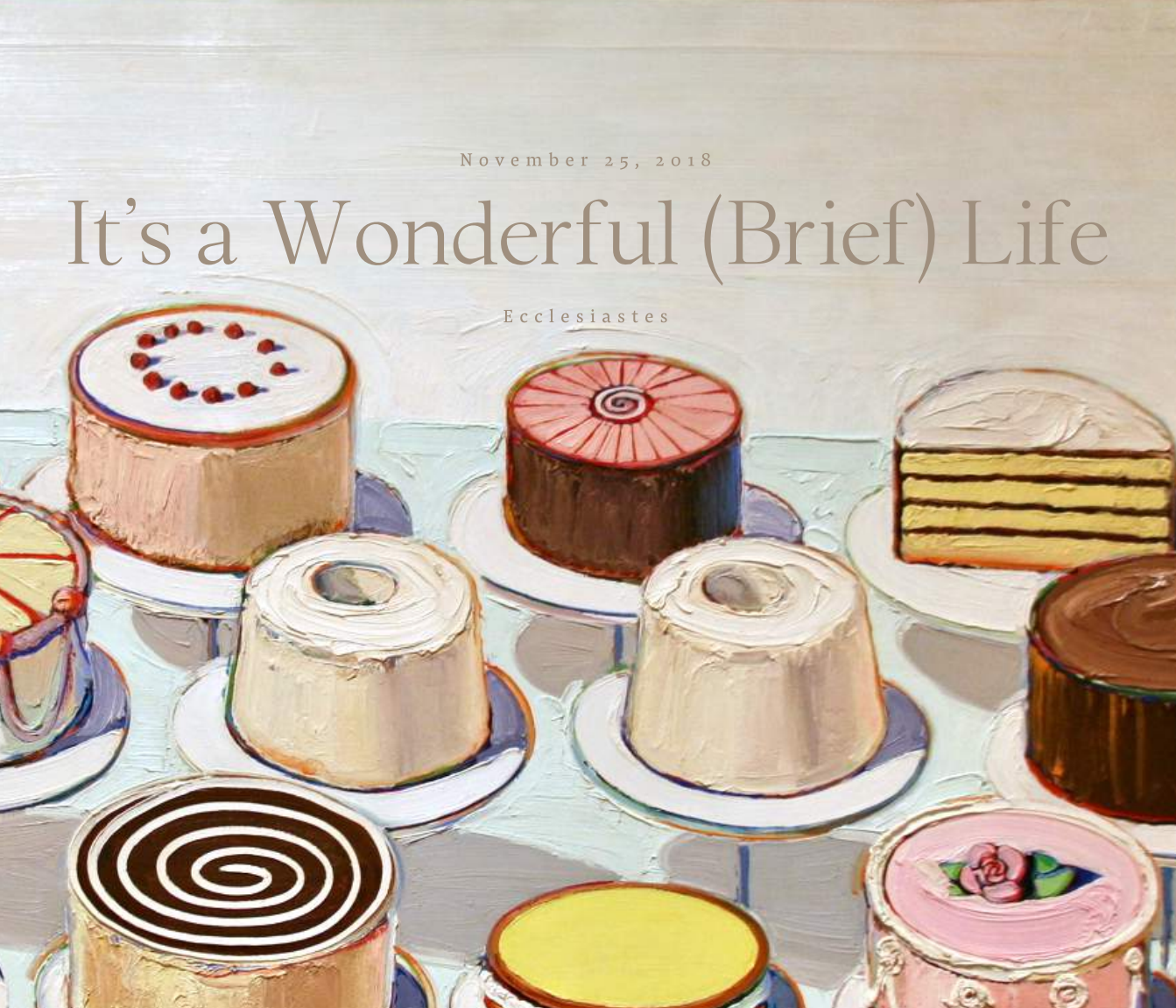


November 25, 2018

# It's a Wonderful (Brief) Life

Ecclesiastes

A collection of various cakes and pastries, including a chocolate cake with a spiral, a yellow cake with a rose, and a chocolate cake with a spiral, arranged on a light blue surface. The cakes are decorated with various toppings like chocolate, white cream, and fruit. The background is a light blue, textured surface.

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# Reflections

For all that has been – thanks.

For all that shall be – yes.

- Dag Hammarskjold

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you

Kneel to say your nightly prayer.

And let faith be the bridge you build to over-

Come evil and welcome good.

- Maya Angelou

Everything is a gift. The degree to which we are awake to this truth is a measure of our gratefulness, and gratefulness is a measure of our aliveness.

- David Steindl-Rast

Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice of an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder lightning.

- Karl Barth

Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.

- A.A. Milne

*'Cakes' by Wayne Thiebaud, 1963*

*'It's a Wonderful Life' logo by Jesse Wu*

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# Scripture

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25; 3:12-13; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:7

2:24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, <sup>25</sup> for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

3:12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; <sup>13</sup> also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

5:18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. <sup>19</sup> Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. <sup>20</sup> For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

8:15 And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

9:7 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

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# Sermon

*Ode to Joy*

Rankin Wilbourne

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

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310 551-0081 

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## Events & News

### **Advent Series - Trusting God When You Can't Make Sense of Things, Begins December 2**

This Christmas season, dive with us into parts of the book of Isaiah that encourage us to trust God, even when we feel overwhelmed.

### **PCC Women: Christmas Dinner, December 3**

Women of PCC: join us for a Christmas dinner and a time of prayer, music, and connecting to one another. We'll also hear from women who are living out the Great Commission, including Veronica Palma, who will share about her own response to Jesus' call to tend to the "least of these."

### **The Gospel Story: Old Testament Survey, Begins January 1**

A 13-week overview of how the Gospel story began in Creation and moved in the lives of Abraham, Moses, the Judges, Kings, & Prophets over a 2000 year timeframe. Spend two hours per week discovering the long historical arc of the Gospel truth in each week's lesson.

*View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, [PacificCrossroads.org/Events](https://PacificCrossroads.org/Events), or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.*

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## Ministry Resources

### **Congregational Care**

Our congregational care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email [pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org](mailto:pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org) or call our office at 310.551.0081.

### **Celebrate Recovery**

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit [PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery](https://PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery).