SERMON NOTES

February 22, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Under the Sun"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Ecclesiastes 1:1-14
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
John 1:1-5, 9-10, 14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a vanity you are prioritizing in your life?
2. What is something you feel is lacking meaning in your life? How can you reorient that perspective towards God to find meaning?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Tim began a new sermon series for Lent entitled "A Whisper in the Wind," and its focus will be on the Book of Ecclesiastes. He begins by presenting the question of how one live in the face of death? After looking at what a secular answer may be, he dives into the answer presented in Ecclesiastes.

Vanity

We begin with aligning on vocabulary rampant through Ecclesistes. The Hebrew word underlying the preacher's opening words of "vanity of vanities" is the word "hevel." In English, the word means "breath," and evokes the imagery of a breath lasting just for the day. We can then ask ourselves, what lasts for only a day? The Preacher would assert that everything in this life does. There is no remembrance of our victories, defeats, test scores, friends, our even relatives; everything and anything will be forgotten. This concept feels like a dismal reminder, but it is necessary because we tend to live in denial of our mortality and imminent deaths.

Gain

One way in which we live in denial is to try to gain more and more. The preacher suggests that this need mirrors the natural world; just as streams are never full and the wind always blows, the eye is never content with what it sees nor the ear ever full of hearing. Yet, unlike the earth, we will not remain. The only thing that we leave behind is the earth. It outlasts us.

No healthy human soul is ever satisfied and that is because we long for God. It is part of an age old, good against evil plot. Evil may take different forms as we warp our desire for God into shortcuts, instead of going through the drawn out process of dying to ourselves. This almost feels like it is lacking hipe, but it's there implicitly.

The Sun/the Son

Verses 3, 13, and 14 provide these hints of hope, and this hope can be found when we look above the sun to the Son. Jesus descended from his place with the Father above the sun to come to earth to gain us. He gained us through his death so that we don't need to bear his punishment. Death is always near, and that can depress us, but through Christ's sacrifice we can have hoipe and meaning in every action because God brings life out of death.

Faced with the stark wake-up call presented in Ecclesiastes, we are faced with the dichotomy that everything matters or nothing matters. If God is who he says he is, then we in the Christian faith can hope and live out the former. In Lent, this may look like taking off something old that has been distracting from our priorities and putting on something new that should be a priority. We can do this because Jesus, the Son, did something new under the sun. Prioritize him practically this season.