

*THE VANITY OF PLEASURE*

ECCLESIASTES 2:1-11, 5:18-6:6



TRINITY  
Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, June 21, 2020

*Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.*

*Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.*

### SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Come As You Are

### CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 16:9-11 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON | John 10:7-11 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of this church and the kingdom of God.

Abide With Me

### PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Come Thou Fount

Build My Life

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

Q. 27. Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

A. No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | *Brown Peterson, Director of Student Ministry*

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

Rescue

## BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,  
both now and forevermore. Amen.

# SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

## Proclamation of God's Word

**Text:** Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 5:18-6:6 (ESV)

**Title:** Wisdom of Ecclesiastes: The Vanity of Pleasure

**Teacher:** Brown Peterson

2:1 I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" 3 I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. 4 I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man. 9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. 11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. ... 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. 19 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. 20 For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart. ... 6:1 There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: 2 a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil. 3 If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. 4 For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. 5 Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. 6 Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place?

## THE GIFT OF PLEASURE

### THE POSITION OF PLEASURE

### THE RESTORATION OF PLEASURE

#### YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship and adore the Lord as the giver of all pleasure and joy. Thank Him for His creation that brings true pleasure and joy to us and that it should cause us to be thankful to Him.
2. Confess the many ways that you took a created pleasure in this world and treated it as God. You tried to suck outlasting satisfaction from a fine creation. Repent of idolizing the creation rather than the Creator.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for the way you enjoyed God's world and people in the proper way, and that He displayed how to have a pleasure-filled life that always led back to His Father. Be in awe of Jesus that He went through the agony of pain and death so that He could secure an eternal pleasure for His brothers and sisters.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you enjoy pleasure better than you do. The gifts in this world are meant to cause us to reflect on the kindness of God and build thankfulness in our hearts.
5. Pray for those in your life who are on the endless hunt of trying to find lasting joy apart from knowing the Lord. Pray that they would continue to be let down from the world and that they would turn to have faith in the Lord who gives us life, and life abundantly.

