

WISDOM OF ECCLESIASTES

— LIVING LIFE BACKWARDS —

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11; 12:8, 13-14



TRINITY

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, June 7, 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.

Living Hope

CALL TO WORSHIP | Luke 9:23-25 (ESV)

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

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

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 | Philippians 3:4, 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.

Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more. ... But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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.

Grace

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.

My All In The

Great Are You Lord

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.

The Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 | *Tim Rice, Lead Pastor & Director of Church Planting*

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.

Creed

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 1:1-11; 12:8, 13-14 (ESV)

Title: Wisdom of Ecclesiastes: Living Life Backwards

Teacher: Tim Rice

^{1:1} The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ³ What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? ⁴ A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. ⁵ The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. ⁶ The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. ⁷ All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. ⁸ All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. ⁹ What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. ¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after. ... ^{12:8} Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity. ... ¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Intro: When have you been treated harshly (*without gentleness*)?

START AT THE END

How does Jesus lead us to live life backwards?

VANITY OF VANITIES

Why is the Preacher's cry credible, that all is vanity?

GLORY & GRACE

Why can only Jesus give us true satisfaction?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD as the Judge of all – all things, all people, and all of our actions. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His sole authority, the Holy Sovereign over all.
2. How have you lived as if you are not accountable, as if you'll never have to settle accounts with your Maker? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you *and* bring you back to reality.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He is the opposite of all vanity, and for His work to save us from being lost. Thank Him for being solid (vs. vanity) *and dispelling the obscurity of death and hell by His death and resurrection.*
4. Who do you know that lives pretty much as if they are lost in the fog? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them, to penetrate their blindness and help them find their meaning in Christ.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow in you His humility and wisdom. Pray that He would help you shed the vanity of the things of this life that don't matter *and that you would grow in your pursuit of the LORD and His wisdom.*

