



*HYMN #730 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

— We Are Sent in Christ's Name —

*BENEDICTION

Go from this place with joy, giving thanks to God, proclaiming God's goodness, celebrating God's love, and worshipping God with your lives. And may the blessing of God Almighty—Father, Son and Holy Spirit— be with you and among you in the days ahead. **Amen.**

*POSTLUDE "Tocatta on CRUCIFER"—Music by John Leavitt
 Featuring Dr. James Kosnik, organ

As you leave Second, live each day by leaving a meaningful legacy for your life: be rich toward God.

For those desiring childcare, the nursery is available during the service for children five years of age and younger. In addition, there is a "family room" available at the back of the sanctuary.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request form (found in the friendship register) and place it in the offering plate. We will include your request in the bulletin for a month, unless you request for us to leave it in longer.

STAFF

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Madeline Tamburo, Nursery		
Tom Libbey, Facility Manager		
Helen Pribesh, Parish Cook		
Barbara Watson, Housekeeper		

Our pastor since 2010, Dr. Craig Wansink received his Ph.D. in New Testament from Yale University, after having graduated from seminary in Chicago, and having studied at universities in Japan, Jordan, Germany, and Israel. Since 1993 he has been a Professor of Religious Studies at Virginia Wesleyan University, where he also serves as the Joan P. and Macon F. Brock, Jr. Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom. Craig is married to Nancy Chapman, and his two children—Katrina and Teddy—are college students.

Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe, our Covenant Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Spiritual Formation, received her M.Div. from Union Presbyterian Seminary. Catherine also serves as the chaplain for University Presbyterian Ministries at Old Dominion University. She and her husband, Chuck, live in Norfolk with their three children, Whitley, Hart, and Alden.

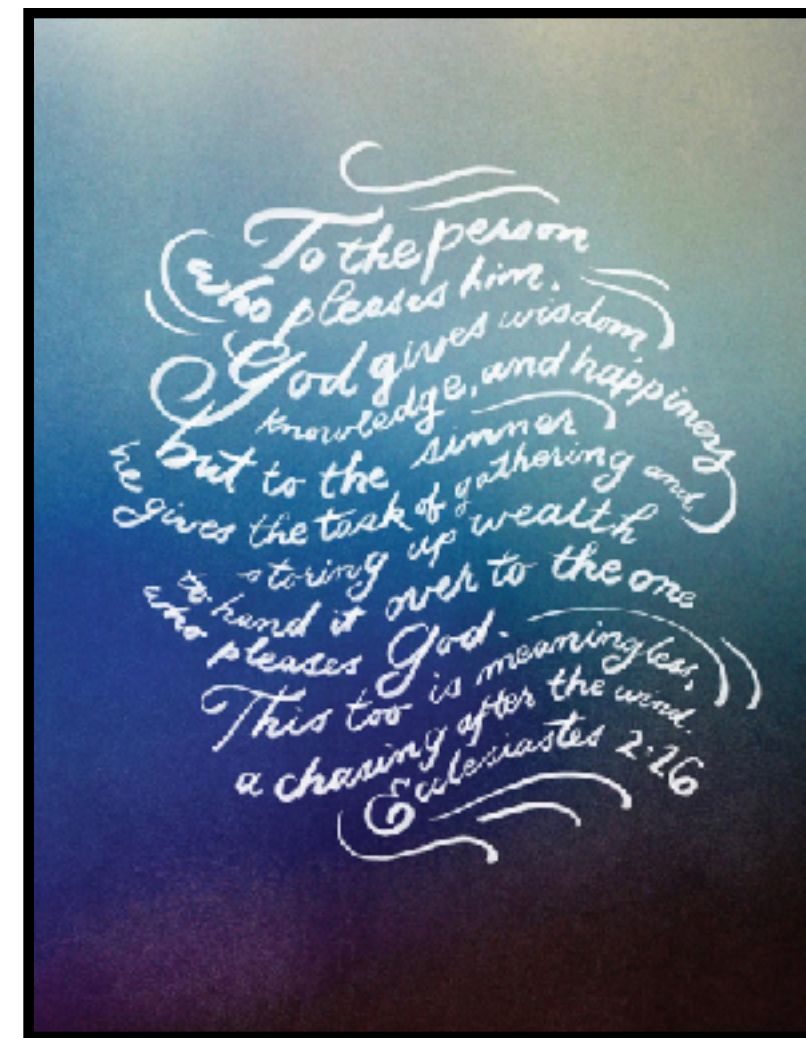
Isaac Thomas, our Pastor of Music, Outreach, and Technology, joined the SPC staff in 2014. He received his education at John Brown University and The University of Texas at Arlington. He is a published composer and has served as conductor for contemporary Christian recording artists Twila Paris and Fernando Ortega. He is a graduate of Dubuque Theological Seminary via the Commissioned Lay Pastor program. Additionally, he completed a six-week piano course through The Juilliard School under the instruction of Dr. Michael Shinn, Chair of Keyboard Studies.

Ecclesiastes: Finding a Meaningful Life When the World Feels Meaningless



“Hating Pleasure and Life:
 The Allure of Cynicism”

Second Presbyterian Church, October 14, 2018



— We Gather in God's Name —

GATHERING MUSIC "Jesus Loves Me ~ My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
 —Music by William B. Bradbury & Lowell Mason; Arranged by Wayne Oquin

WELCOME

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
 Greet your neighbor with the peace of Christ.

Whether we are old or young, whether we are first-time or longtime worshipers, whether we come full of doubts or confidence, joy, or sorrow, in this place we all are family, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Welcome!

“God gives His gifts where He finds the vessel empty enough to receive them.”
—C. S. Lewis

RINGING THE CHIMES

PRELUDE “*We Believe in One Almighty God*” from the “*Clavier-Übung, Part III*”
—Music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Featuring Dr. James Kosnik, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our world offers many wide avenues
and beautiful boulevards upon which to walk.

But God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Our society suggests we put down our roots
in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

**But God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope,
watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

Our culture promotes achievement, success,
climbing to the top, and ringing the bell.

**But God tells us if we want to be first,
then we need to move to the back of the line.**

Our way of life pulls us in many different directions,
and we often become distracted and overwhelmed.

**But God slows us, calms us, and draws us near.
Let us worship God!**

***HYMN #281** “*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*”

*CONFESSION OF SIN

We long for wisdom, O Lord, but prefer that it be our own. We turn away from the ideas of others and ignore the possibility and promise that come from life together with you. Most of all, we drown out your gift of wisdom, because we believe that we know better. Forgive us, loving God. Bring an end to the self-righteousness that ignores you, and awaken us anew to the wisdom that comes only from you. Show us how to walk in your ways and listen to your promises each and every day. Amen.

***MUSICAL RESPONSE #631** “*Holy God*”—Traditional Orthodox Liturgy
*Holy, holy, holy God, holy almighty God,
holy and immortal God, have mercy upon us.*

*WORDS OF GRACE

People of God, hear the good news! Our God is compassionate and merciful, full of endless love. God does not treat us as our sins deserve, or punish us as harshly as he could. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so strong is his love toward us. And as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. So be at peace: you are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

“Pessimism is not in being tired of evil but in being tired of good. Despair does not lie in being weary of suffering, but in being weary of joy.”
—Gilbert K. Chesterton

— *We Hear the Word* —

TIME OF DISCOVERY “*Jesus Loves the Little Children*”

—Words by C.H. Woolston and Joseph Barlowe; Music by George F. Root
*Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red, brown, yellow, black, and white, they are precious in his sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

CHORAL ANTHEM “*Kyrie*”—Words: Traditional Greek; Music by James McCray
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. [Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy]

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ecclesiastes 2:1-26 (page 615; large print page 755-756)

SERMON “Hating Pleasure and Life: The Allure of Cynicism” —Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe

HYMN #438 “*Give to the Winds Your Fears*”—Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

— *We Respond to God’s Word* —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING: THE SHARING OF OUR LIVES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY “*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*”—Arranged by James Kosnik
Featuring Dr. James Kosnik, organ

***THE DOXOLOGY #961** “*Glory Be to the Father*”

—Words: Gloria Patri; Music from Henry Greatorex’ Collection
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

*PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION

This world would deny you, Lord, and rely on human wisdom
in their search for answers to questions they have yet to ask.

**But we will praise you and exalt your name,
for we know that you are Alpha, the beginning of all things;
and Omega, the end; and all that is between.**

We have known your presence and your provision;
we have experienced your mercy and your grace;
we have known your love and experienced your joy.

In gratitude, we shall praise your name now and forevermore. Amen.

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.”
—Martin Luther

“Cynicism is that blackguard defect of vision which compels us to see the world as it is, instead of as it should be.”
—Ambrose Bierce

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”
—Psalm 126:3