



The Spirit's Letter of Recommendation
September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday of Trinitytide



MEDITATION

From the Scriptures men may turn their eyes, but from these living epistles they cannot. They are constrained to see the truths recorded in them, and they are admonished by them. Without such a change they themselves can never be partakers of the kingdom of heaven. In a word, by every true convert Christ speaks to all people.

-Charles Simeon

If we adhere to the literal sense even of the moral law, if we regard only the precept and the sanction as they stand in themselves, not as they lead us to Christ, they are doubtless a killing ordinance and bind us down under the sentence of death.

- John Wesley

The gift of righteousness in Christ is greater than what was revealed under the old law, because there is more glory in salvation than there is in death.

- Ambrosiator

Run, John, run, the law commands,
But gives gives us neither feet nor hands.
Far better news the gospel brings:
It bids us fly and gives us wings.

- John Bunyan

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday, September 15th	Psalm 94	Jeremiah 5:1-17	1 Timothy 1:18-20
Tuesday the 16th	Psalm 94	Jeremiah 5:18-31	2 Peter 3:8-13
Wednesday the 17th	Psalm 94	Jeremiah 14:1-10, 17-22	Luke 22:31-33, 54-62
Thursday the 18th	Psalm 79:1-9	Jeremiah 12:14-13:11	Romans 3:1-8
Friday the 19th	Psalm 79:1-9	Jeremiah 8:1-13	Romans 8:31-39
Saturday the 20th	Psalm 79:1-9	Jeremiah 8:14-17; 9:2-11	Mark 12:41-44

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WELCOME

Second City Church is a community that exists to worship the Triune God and to celebrate, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope this guide will help you participate in our service. If you have any questions about our worship, faith, or how you can be a part of our mission to serve God and neighbor in Harrisburg, be sure to talk to our pastor.

For Parents:

Children of all ages are welcome to remain with us as we worship. We like the noise; it helps us remember we are alive. The following services are available for you and your children to get the most out of your time of worship:

Infant & Toddler Care

Infant and toddler care is available on the first floor of the east wing of our building. Ask one of our greeters if you need help locating this room. Nursery staff are well-trained, have required background checks, and maintain a safe environment for your child(ren).

Pentecost Season, sometimes called Trinity Season, the Time of the Church, or Ordinary Time, is the long season that follows Pentecost until the end of the church year and the beginning of Advent. During this season we celebrate the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Church, and the growth that the church experiences guided by the Spirit. The symbols of the season are any Trinity symbol, images of the Apostles or Saints, symbols of the church, or symbols of Christ. The liturgical color for the season is green, symbolizing the new growth of the Church that the Spirit brings.

Please note that our services are live-streamed.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord!

**I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

**Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures
forever.**

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

**He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant
forever.**

He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

**The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are
trustworthy;**

**they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness
and uprightness.**

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever!

- Psalm 111

Gathering Hymn -Come, Christians, Join To Sing

Come Christians join to sing
Alleluia amen
Loud praise to Christ our King
Alleluia amen
Let all with heart and voice
Before His throne rejoice
Praise is His gracious choice
Alleluia amen

Come lift your hearts on high
Alleluia amen
Let praises fill the sky
Alleluia amen
He is our Guide and Friend
To us He'll condescend
His love shall never end
Alleluia amen

Praise yet our Christ again
Alleluia amen
Life shall not end the strain
Alleluia amen
On heaven's blissful shore,

His goodness we'll adore
Singing forevermore
Alleluia amen

Confession Hymn - Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Holy Spirit rest upon us, lead us in the way of your justice
Holy Spirit rest upon us, teach us how to serve in our weakness

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Holy Spirit rest upon us, teach us how to tend to creation
Holy Spirit rest upon us, guide us from our path of destruction

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Holy Father, forgive us. Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Heal our confused mind with your word, heal our divided will with your law, heal our troubled conscience with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Passing of the Peace

[Invitation for congregation to share a sign of peace with one another]

Hymns of Praise and Adoration

I Don't Have Much

How can I respond
To the love that You have lavished on me?
How can I respond
To the love that You have lavished on me?

I don't have much, I don't have much
But I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You
I don't have much, I don't have much
But I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You

Every part of me
Wants to love You like You've loved me, Lord
Every part of me
Wants to love You like You've loved me, my Lord

I don't have much, I don't have much
But I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You
I don't have much, I don't have much
But I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You

I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You
I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You
I have a life I'll give to You, I have a life I'll give to You
I have a life I'll give to You, I have a life I'll give to You

I don't have much, I don't have much
But I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You
I don't have much, I don't have much
But I have a heart that beats for You, I have a heart that beats for You

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee
Filled with messages from Thee

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose
Every power as Thou shalt choose

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee
Ever, only, all for Thee



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

Blessing Our Children

Jesus called the children to him and said,

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

September Memory Verse

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Psalm Reading

Psalm 32:1-5; page 546

Gloria Patri

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.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 11:19-21; page 830

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 3:1-18; page 1146

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Mark 7:1-8; page 1001

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Peter Rowan - *The Spirit's Letter of Recommendation*

Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended to 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

- *The Apostles' Creed*

Offering of Prayers of the People

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

**Teach us, Lord, the way of your decrees, that we may follow it to the end.
Give us understanding, so that we may keep your law and obey it with all
our hearts. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find
delight.**

Merciful Father, through the work of your Holy Spirit you called us to be your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Turn our hearts toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our lives according to your word.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of your Word. By it, you work faith, life, and salvation in us. Help us, day by day, to not despise it, but hold it sacred and gladly hear it and learn it. Through your Word, continue to reveal Jesus to us all our days, and guide us to better understand who we are in Him and what you have called us to be; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace we dread, for your laws are good. How we long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve our life.

Heavenly Father, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Offering of Gifts

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

Friends and members of Second City Church support the extension of God's Kingdom with gifts of bread, wine, talents and resources. Guests are not expected to contribute. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the boxes on the wall as you leave, or can be made electronically on our website or by the QR code to the right.



Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Praise God for His Mighty Acts

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is your living Word from before time and for all ages; by him you created all things, and by him you make all things new. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, most holy Lord, Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth are filled, filled with Your holy light

O blessed is the one, the one who comes

Comes in the name of God

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Calling on the Holy Spirit and Lord's Prayer

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him by faith, with thanksgiving.

Sharing Holy Communion

Closing Prayer

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:

Graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion,

nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good

works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and

the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

- Number 6:24-26

Closing Hymn - Barocha

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face shine upon you
And give you peace, and give you peace
And give you peace, forever

The Lord be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face, toward you
And give you peace, and give you peace
And give you peace, forever

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face shine upon you
And give you peace, and give you peace
And give you peace, forever
And give you peace, and give you peace
And give you peace, forever

Dismissal

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!



ATTRIBUTIONS

Come Christians Join To Sing

Words by Christian Bateman
Traditional Spanish Melody

Lord, Have Mercy

Words and Music by Paul Zach, Kate Bluett and
Latifah Alattas
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I Don't Have Much

Words and music by Missions House
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Take My Life and Let It Be

Words by Frances R. Havergal, 1874
Music by Henri A Cesar Malan, 1827

Holy, Most Holy Lord

Paraphraser (into English): Greg Scheer
Tune: SANNANINA

You Are New Every Morning

Words and Music by Taylor Leonhardt, Leslie Jordan,
Emoni Wilkins, Latifah Alattas
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Barocha

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1987.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Final Second Sunday Picnic at Negley Park Today

Don't miss our last picnic of the summer after our worship service today! We will meet at the upper pavilion of Negley Park, located at 418 Cumberland Road in Lemoyne.

Intro to Second City Class Saturday, September 20

If you are interested in joining the church or simply learning more about SCC, please join Pastor Peter for an Intro to Second City class on September 20th from 8:30-12. Please contact Pastor Peter for more information.

Shaffer Retreat Campout, Worship Service and Picnic October 11 - 12

Mark your calendars for this beloved event, taking place the second weekend of October at the church's property at 2011 Fishing Creek Valley Road! More details to follow.



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Fall Sunday School for Children

Sunday school continues throughout the month of September. There will also be four weeks of Sunday school during the month of November. Classes are broken into the following age groups:

Age 3 - 1st grade, meeting in the Children's Worship room (Orange room)

2nd - 4th grade, meeting in the Kindergarten classroom (Logos upstairs)

5th - 8th grade, meeting in the Encore classroom (Logos upstairs)

Video Volunteers Needed

The video team needs a volunteer or two to help produce our worship stream on Sunday mornings. Training is comprehensive. No experience necessary. General knowledge of personal computers is helpful. Please prayerfully consider this ministry. If you feel led please email tech@secondcitychurch.org or text Tim Cope at 717-433-2247.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to
pray for the following people:

Dottie Roden
Darwin Leshner
Virginia Anderson
Elizabeth James

Nevin White
Sophia James, USAF
Eleanor Orner
Christine Zubrod Perrin

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider liking, following and subscribing to our social media! Also, when you see, read or watch something you like, share it with your friends. It's a helpful way to let others know we are here!

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Your contact information

If you are our guest and would like to indicate your presence with us, or if you'd like to make us aware of a change in your contact information, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate.

- _____ Visitor
- _____ Regular Attendee
- _____ Member

Name(s):

Address (please include city and zip):

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Prayer
Requests: _____

Contact us

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