



Kepler Education's Student Magazine

Winter 2021

Sojourners and Heirs

by Noah Jackson

The Life and Death of Autumn: A Collaborative Poem

by the Kepler Poetry Club

The Case for Trusting Tradition

by Dr. Zachary Schmoll



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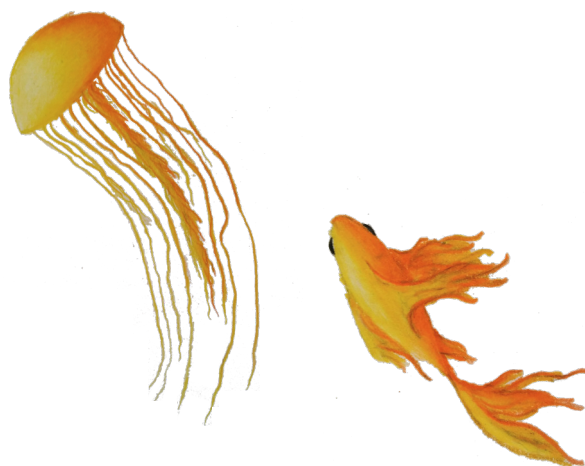
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Jellyfish and Fish
by Ian Izard

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings Kepler Family,

As we break from our academic rigor to celebrate the Incarnation of our Redeemer and Lord, Jesus Christ, on behalf of Kepler Education, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I also want to commend our Kepler Life students and teachers on the fabulous online Christian community they are *making*. I normally would have said *building*, but I wrote *making* here for a specific reason. I've been thinking a lot about *making*, lately, especially in light of the current volatilities in our society, and the ways in which so many things made in the past are now falling apart.

As it seems apparent that a lot of things our culture once held in common and took for granted are crumbling into rubble, it is essential, now more than ever, that Christians *make* good things, things that will foster human flourishing, things that will transcend the ephemeral nature of our current society, good things that will last for generations to come.

If you'll indulge me the opportunity to take you further up and further in and treat this idea of making a little more deeply, consider the words of St. Paul in his letter to the church at Ephesus when he writes,

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his *workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:8-10).

There is a lot to unpack in this passage that is relevant, but in the interest of aiming at concision, consider the line where Paul uses the word, “workmanship.” The Greek word is *ποίημα* (Poima) and means “that which is made.” It also shares a root with the word *poem* or *poetry*. Following Aristotle, Percy Shelley once wrote that, “A poem is the very image of life expressed in its eternal truth.”

This line is even more remarkable if one thinks of the fact that Christmas is celebrating when the Word became flesh. In Christ Jesus, the very image of life was expressed in its eternal truth. Thus, the believer is one who is said to be “in Christ,” and therefore his or her life is, in a real sense, a kind of poem—the very expression of God’s imagination.

Therefore, the Christian is not only created *Imago Dei*, he is also created again in Christ Jesus. And, ultimately, he is created for good works, to walk in them and to make them. Said another way, human beings are, in relationship to their Creator, themselves sub-creators with innate desires and powers to discover what can be known, what should be done with what is discovered, and what can be *made* to enhance and promote human flourishing out of one’s own meaningful existence.

It is upon rumination of this idea of the Christian imagination that I am so delighted to see your edifying engagement in Kepler Life, from the casual conversations in Slack to the various student clubs, from the student council to the design and execution of the Eccentric, the student yearbook, and every other good thing you are making with us at Kepler. *Bravissimo! And Merry Christmas!*

In Christ,

Scott Postma

President, Kepler Education

NOTE FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR



Dear students,

Happy Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany! I pray that this will be a season of recreation and refreshment for you. And you are likely to need refreshment, are you not, dear student? Kepler's calendar means that you will likely have midterms when classes start back up!

One of the things I love most about this time of year is that it's like a new year before New Year's. The Church calendar that many Western Christians use starts with Advent, which is usually right after Thanksgiving. That's the "new year's day" of the Church calendar, and it's a great time to renew and recommit one's attitude, as is commonly done in January among those who live by the Julian and Gregorian calendars (and let's be honest, we all do!). What could be more about making things new than the birth of our Savior? New birth, new Adam, new Creation!

What might this have to do with Kepler or your year of homeschooling so far? Much in every way. If you have found yourself giving in to temptations to do your work poorly, or to avoid your studies, or to kill the fun and joy to be found in them, then repent and renew this Christmas. Pray, talk with your parents, and let your gratitude for God's good gifts carry you into gladness for all God's provisions for you. Act in God's eye what in God's eye you are—Christ! Your education is a gift, and I pray that you will gratefully enjoy it in truth, beauty, and goodness for the rest of the year!

Merry Christmas!

Joffre Swait

Parent/Student Advisor



THE KEPLER ECCENTRIC PODCAST

Taking its name from our student magazine, The Kepler Eccentric, this podcast is geared towards students and eavesdropping parents of Kepler Education, but relevant to any families in classical homeschooling. In this podcast, Joffre Swait (Kepler's Academic Advisor) will tackle student issues, feature Kepler students, and bring Kepler student life to the streaming airwaves.

- [Episode 1: What College Should I Attend?](#)

Joffre Swait helps students answer the question, "What College Should I Attend?"

- [Episode 2: On Poetry with Hailey Hasic \(Poetry Club President '21-'22\)](#)

Poetry exalts, so exult in it! Join Prefe Joffre Swait and budding poet Hailey Hasic as they talk about lyric and verse.

- [Episode 3: Homeschooling & Distance Learning in Alaska with Doyle Rockwell](#)

As the poet hath said, "When it's springtime in Alaska, it's 40 below." What is homeschooling like in such a context? Kepler student Doyle Rockwell sets the record straight.

keplerlife

Dear Kepler family,

As we reach the end of our first semester, I am honored to be able to participate in the Kepler Student Council. I am so grateful to my fellow council members who have put their time and energy into making this magazine a possibility. In addition to the student council, we have a lot of great clubs that have been getting off to a fantastic start this year. Thanks to student initiative, we even have two brand new clubs this year: the poetry club and the music club! All of our clubs from last year have continued on including the chess club, book club, Spanish club, and film club. These clubs have all been doing amazing work as they learn and grow together in community through their common interests. You can hear more about them from our club officers as you continue reading. I hope you will consider joining one as an opportunity to make new friends and discover the joy of online community.

With the start of the new year we have a lot going on and I cannot wait to share with you the events we are working on for Kepler Life. We plan to re-create some of our events from last year such as a Christmas movie and talent show, as well as introducing new ideas such as a poetry night!

It has been such a joy to see all your submissions as they came in. This magazine would not exist if it weren't for your participation and work and so I thank each and everyone of you who submitted something. Even if what you sent us didn't make it into the final product, I can assure you that picking through what we got was not an easy task and each piece was highly appreciated!

This Thanksgiving I am grateful to all our teachers, parents, club leaders, and students for all the ways they offer their support and participation in their own ways. I wish you all a blessed holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at future events!

-Margaret Johnston
President of Student Council



Hello, Kepler Students, from the Kepler Poetry Club! We're fairly new to Kepler, but we're already having a blast reading and discussing poems

suggested by members, sharing our own poetry, and generally building a fun and uplifting community of poetry-lovers! We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 8 pm EST. The British poet John Keats once said: "Poetry...should strike the reader as a wording of his own highest thoughts, and appear almost a remembrance." Poetry provides insight into the human condition, and that means that poetry is not only for those with a special talent for it: It is something every person can understand and enjoy! We would love to have you join us for any of our meetings! Check out our slack channel, or contact our president, Hailey Hasic, if you have any questions!

- Hailey Hasic
Poetry Club President

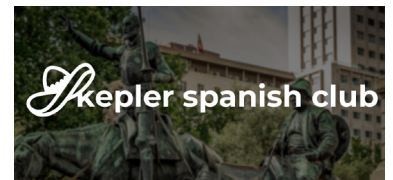


Kepler's Chess club is in full swing! Come join us every Friday and our partners at TPS Chess for tournaments, puzzles, and more! We use chess.com

which is a free and easy way to play chess with bots and puzzles too! Come join chess club, whether you are a beginner or a pro, and have fun learning and playing chess all throughout this next school year! We hope to see you soon!

- Jairus Tanaka
Chess Club President

Spanish Club has had a very musical term so far! We've looked at tango and some South American folk classics. Come join the club to experience the culture and language of the Spanish-speaking world with fellow enthusiasts! Let there be games and verse and geeking out over etymology. No Spanish experience necessary, only a desire to learn and *disfrutar*! To join, please contact Mr. Joffre Swait.



Other Kepler clubs include Film Club, Book Club, and Music Club. Also consider joining the Yearbook Committee!

Sojourners and Heirs

by Noah Jackson

Since March, 2020, a pandemic has unsettled the world. Throughout the United States fear of this new virus has gripped millions. Fear has influenced every decision. Fear has obliterated illusions of security. Fear has left people groping for a refuge. Fear has destroyed earthly hopes. Sadly, no-one has presented hope to the hopeless. Why? Many Christians, who possess great hope, have forgotten that hope.

What is this hope? This hope begins at the beginning when God created a perfect Earth. He filled it with trees and birds and fish and animals. Finally, He made Man in His own image. God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and commanded them: “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”¹ However Adam and Eve disobeyed by eating from that tree. Immediately, God’s perfect Spirit separated from Man’s imperfect soul. Immediately, Man destined himself for eternal death. Immediately, Man needed redemption and restoration. Four millennia later, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, descended to earth, died, and rose to life again to provide those who accept His perfect sacrifice with salvation and the hope of eternal life. “For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”² This appearance marks the end of Man’s fallen situation. This appearance marks the beginning of Man’s restoration. This appearance declares that Death is defeated, that Satan is smitten, that the curse is reversed, that sinners are saved, that paradise is prepared. This appearance is a Christian’s hope.

However many Christians in America have forgotten this hope which is their priceless possession. Many Christians in America have forgotten their eternal destination and neglected their current motivation. Many

Christians in America have focused their exertions on earthly possessions, on earthly institutions, on earthly situations, and on earthly precautions. Many Christians in America have seized the world’s gilded trinkets and have neglected Heaven’s golden treasures. Thus when the tribulations of life threaten the security of earthly wealth, both Christians and non-Christians, both those with hope and those without hope, cower terrified at the impending doom.

Before His ascension Christ commanded His followers to proclaim the Gospel of salvation to all nations. When trials shake the world, reminding people everywhere of their insecurity, Christians should seize the opportunity to tell sinners of Christ’s salvation. However, if tribulations also shake Christians because they have forgotten their eternal hope, then they cannot provide any hope to the hopeless. If they have forgotten their security, they will be too afraid of drowning in the tempest to assist those who are drowning in the tempest. Thus, forgetting our hope hinders our prosecution of the Great Commission.

To remove this hindrance we must return our concentration to God’s salvation. Through reading God’s Word, His revelation of restoration, we must refocus on God’s gift to us, the hope of eternal life. In our daily deeds, we must desire treasure in heaven rather than trinkets on earth. In all that we do, we must remind ourselves that Christ has promised to return. If we remember our hope, then when troubles menace this earth, we can spread that hope.

Where are you gazing? Are you relying on earthly institutions or precautions? Do you remain peaceful through earthly tribulations? It is my prayer that every Christian in the United States, every Christian in America, every Christian in the world, will remember that we are uniquely placed. During our short lives on Earth, we can prepare ourselves for eternal life in Heaven. We are sojourners in this world, but we are heirs of the world to come.

1 Genesis 2:17

2 Titus 2:11-13

Untitled

by Susan Vickery



Untitled

by Grace Harris



The Life and Death of Autumn: A Collaborative Poem

by the Kepler Poetry Club

1 (*Jillian Hoge*)

Autumn beckons me to see her Creator's resplendent Majesty,
His colors unfolding 'round flint plateaus of breathless awe.
Gently their clothes of crimson and gold hues rusty, flutter in winds gusty.
Cold days for flannels, socks, and time by the fire with books and a jigsaw.

2 (*Susan Vickery*)

As the Mississippi heat comes to an end,
Slowly does the season of cold begin.
Leaves soon change and blush, then die.
Winter has come, Autumn's goodbye.

3 (*Anna Meegan*)

And so, as summer once died into autumn,
autumn now dies into winter; her grave withers.
First kiss of cold, a formidable beauty,
she whispers in dagger-point winds that send shivers.
This southeastern earth is now autumn's grave,
shrine of frozen slumbering ground; the frosts fallen glass.
Inside, dreams flit from worlds of snow
to warmth and green, untarnished grass.

4 (*Clara Shoemaker*)

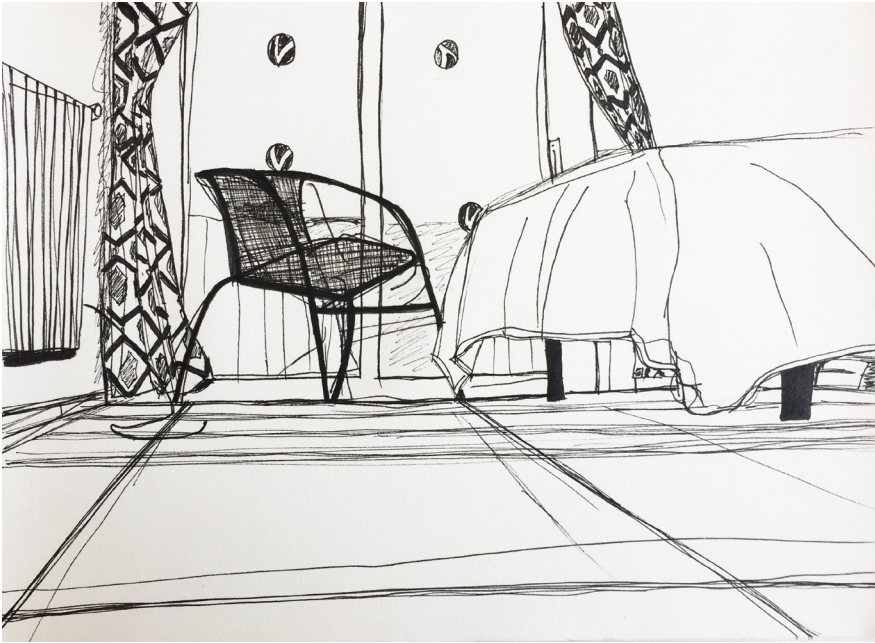
In lands off the seashore, the ocean breeze
Smothers the warmth into goldening leaves,
But when from salty zephyr emerges frazil gust,
All the world into frosty wintertide is thrust.

5 (*Hailey Hasic*)

Each breath of wind brings with it sighs of life long lived 'neath southern skies,
And dormant sinks the wintry world: What! Dead? No, but asleep.
"Hush!" Snowfalls whisper, as they blister hands and cheek and roofs upturn'd:
"The cold will lessen, and will bless another life: No need to weep.

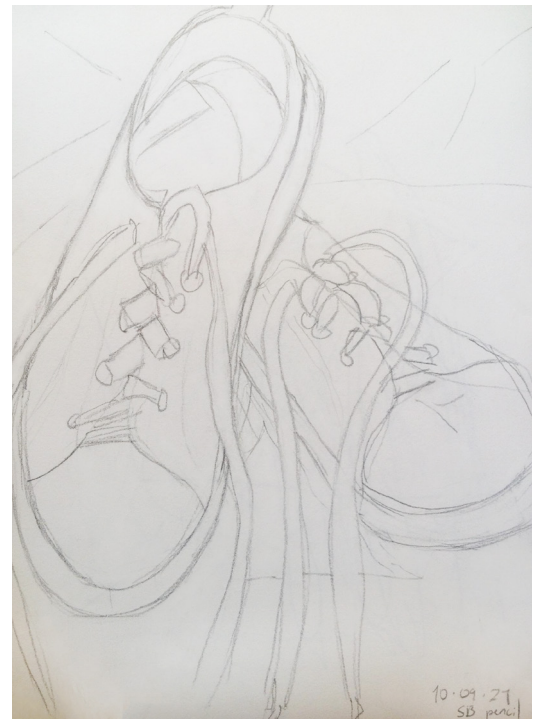
Pen Room

by Christiana Shire



Shoes

by Christiana Shire



Peppers

by Susannah Owen



Apt Or Not?

by Christiana Shire

At the name Jane Austen, one usually thinks of her most beloved novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, published in 1813. Interestingly, Austen had originally titled her book *First Impressions*, before the publication of a work under the same name compelled her to change it. Despite this, *First Impressions* was an apt title for *Pride and Prejudice* as shown through three people: Mr. Darcy, Mr. Wickham, and Mr. Collins.

Mr. Darcy is the first of three fitting examples as to why *First Impressions* was an apt title for Austen's novel. In Chapter 3, he enters the assembly rooms for the first time, and his character is swiftly established as disagreeable and arrogant: "... he was discovered to be proud, to be above his company, and above being pleased" (215). This harsh opinion is held for a greater part of the novel and holds until Mr. Darcy's famous marriage proposal to Elizabeth Bennet (313-316). As stated, his character is firmly believed to be cold, proud, and haughty of those below his rank until this point. But as Elizabeth gradually comes to discover, this opinion is not quite as accurate as most in Meryton made out to be. She realises this when they meet again at his home in Derbyshire. Although as surprised and embarrassed as herself, Darcy treats Elizabeth and her relations with such civility and willingness which she had never seen from him before: "... the difference, the change was so great, and struck so forcibly on her mind ... Never ... had she seen him so desirous to please, so free from self-consequence, or unbending reserve as now" (352). The truth comes forth from Darcy himself back in Hertfordshire, explaining the 'why' of his disposition to Elizabeth. "As a child I was taught what was *right*, but I was not taught to correct my temper. I was given good principles, but left to follow them in pride and conceit" (410-411). In this way, Mr. Darcy's character makes a complete arc, from proud and conceited to humbled and willing to please. Thus, his first impression does *not* show the depth of his character.

Mr. Wickham is the second example of why *First Impressions* is a fitting title. His character is shown inversely to Darcy's, as he is introduced with a favourable nature. When the female Bennets meet him for the first time in Meryton, he is willing to please and is pleasant to share

one's company with. "His appearance was greatly in his favour; he had all the best part of beauty, a fine countenance, a good figure, and very pleasing address" (250). Wickham's charming demeanour never changes, but his true character is suddenly and shockingly revealed through information shared between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth, in the former's letter of explanation and justification after his failed marriage proposal. In this letter, Darcy reveals how Wickham had attempted to elope with his sister Georgiana, saying that it was not only a mode of getting money but also as a means of revenge (320). This compels Elizabeth to recall every moment she'd ever had with Wickham, and to her surprise, she finds that he hadn't behaved as properly as he should have done. She comes to the conclusion that Wickham was not who everyone thought he was. Instead he was a selfish, gambling mercenary, and opposite of the gentleman he pretended to be (322-323). Mr. Wickham's character is completed when he runs away with Lydia Bennet, Elizabeth's youngest sister. After being persuaded to marry and therefore save the Bennet family from being perpetually disgraced, they are allowed to visit Longbourn. Despite the sacrifices that made their marriage come to pass, the couples' behaviour is audacious and unabashed when they come to Longbourn (380). The fact that Wickham shows no remorse whatsoever at his shameful actions shows that although he is multi-layered as a character, he is still static. Wickham never completes the character arc or changes for the better by the end of the novel; therefore his first impression, like Mr. Darcy, does not reveal his true character.

Reverend Collins is the third example of why *First Impressions* was a fitting title for *Pride and Prejudice*. Unlike Mr. Darcy and Mr. Wickham, Mr. Collins is quickly shown to have a shallow and rather predictable personality. Before the man even physically appears, Mr. Bennet expresses the hope that Mr. Collins will reveal himself as a rather foolish sort, due to the latter's style of letter writing (245). This first surmise proves itself correct on the family's meeting of him: "... Mr. Collins seemed neither in need of encouragement, nor inclined to be silent himself. He was a tall, heavy looking young man of five and

twenty. His air was grave and stately, and his manners were very formal” (245). From this, a reader might make out that Mr. Collins, as a rector, *might* have something sensible to say, but his pompous manner of speech and his self-esteem continue right along. This is particularly well expressed in his marriage proposal to Elizabeth. There is a lengthy speech from him, and once he finishes with, “On that head, therefore, I shall be uniformly silent; and you may assure yourself that no ungenerous reproach shall ever pass my lips when we are married” (269), Elizabeth refuses him. He, believing that she is merely playing with him, to put him in suspense a bit longer, presses harder in an obstinate fashion. “You are uniformly charming!” cried he, with an air of awkward gallantry; ‘and I am persuaded that when sanctioned by the express authority of both your excellent parents, my proposals will not fail of being acceptable.’ To such perseverance in wilful self-deception Elizabeth would make no reply” (271). Mr. Collins’s manner of behaviour never appears to change. He resolutely goes forth to marry Charlotte Lucas after his failed proposal to Elizabeth (277-278), and when the latter sees them at Hunsford several months later, indirectly tries to make her see what

she forwent in her refusal (295-296). In this case he has not changed even after his marriage to Charlotte. “She saw instantly that her cousin’s manners were not altered by his marriage; his formal civility was just what it had been” (295-296). Therefore, Mr. Collins’s first impression is a concrete example of his character.

The first impression of a person sets their behaviour and appearance firmly in our minds, as we have never met them before and therefore are beginning to determine their character. Yet we occasionally come to discover that said people are not always what they seem. It is in this way Austen explores the nature of reality in her novels. Therefore, *First Impressions* is an apt title for *Pride and Prejudice*, as shown through Mr. Darcy, Mr. Wickham, and Mr. Collins. Excluding Mr. Collins, it is as Jane Bennet says to Elizabeth: “One has got all the goodness, and the other all the appearance of it” (332).

Untitled

by Audrey McClelland



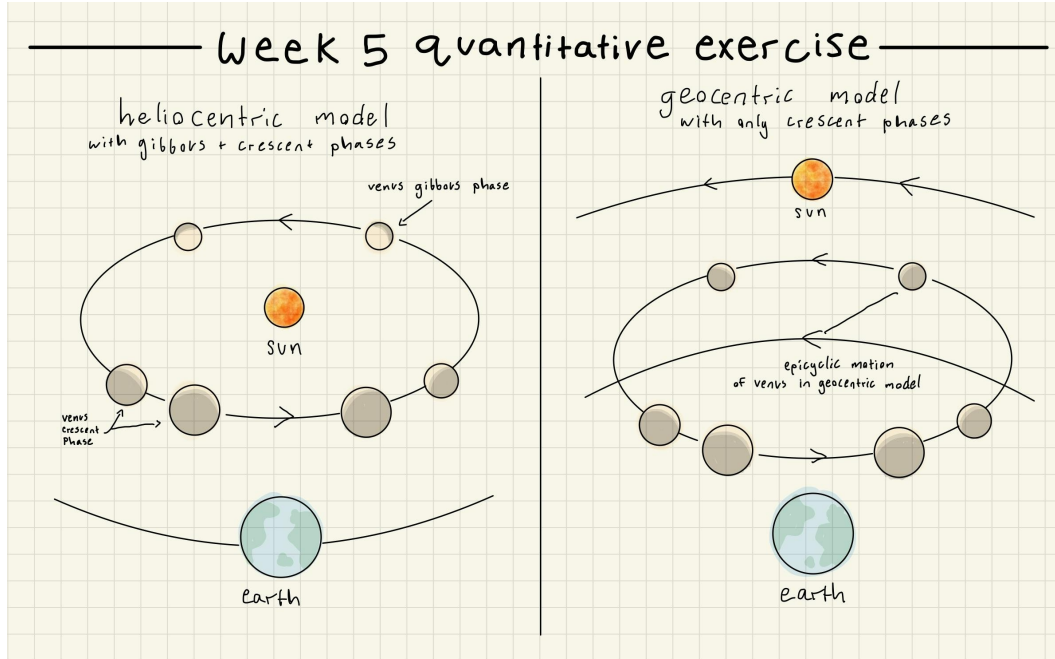
Ode to the Rose Lady

by Hailey Hasic

Dear Lady! Had I voice unwearying,
Or tongues such as would furnish a thousand mouths
with noise
I could not tolerably tell of thy beauty.
Thy blushing tints of rosy hue
From whence we did perceive your honored name
Make soft your outward appearance.
Pearly snow it seems, imbued with the sunsets of
ages past.
Your sparrow-friend caresses your neck;
A welcome guest, he knows: without fear he dares
What went unthought by men of old:
To brush your soft cheek carelessly,
And speak into your ear.
Only the fairest blooms are honored
To grace your lofty crown with springtide sweetness;
No thorn shall e'er you bear in sorrow
Bewept, thy beauty ravished in the shadow
Of utter lifelessness. No!
Thy beauty shall delight us yet
In fragrance like to ambrosial balm of Ida's height
Which, wafting from thy pearly brow
Shall fill our souls with sad content.

EXERCISE FROM ASTRONOMY WITH JOSEPH A'HEARN

Draw a diagram of the orbits of Venus and the Earth/Sun and diagrams of the phase of Venus at selected locations in its orbit to show whether observations of both crescent and gibbous phases of Venus are conclusive evidence for whether Venus orbits the Sun or the Earth.



by Anna Meegan

Higher Education with Kepler

Kepler partners with various, like-minded institutions to help college-bound students successfully navigate their path to post-secondary education. Whether it is a grant, dual enrollment credits, or something else, each of our partners offers Kepler students a unique opportunity and educational experience that is suited to their particular calling and need.



Colorado Christian University is a regionally accredited University ranked in the top 2 percent of colleges nationwide for its core curriculum by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. CCU offers more than 200 academic program options for traditional and adult students.

Kepler students who are college bound can save thousands in tuition through Kepler's dual enrollment partnership with Colorado Christian University (CCU). Select classes at Kepler Education are eligible for dual enrollment with CCU and the list is growing. As we continue to build out the dual enrollment program at Kepler, juniors and seniors will be able to earn their A.A., saving them thousands in tuition costs and up to two years studying at college. To learn more, schedule an appointment with Kepler's Academic Advisor, or visit Colorado Christian University at www.ccu.edu.



Gutenberg College is a nationally accredited undergraduate "Great Books" liberal arts program located in Eugene, Oregon. Gutenberg exists to educate individuals and to foster a biblical worldview with a desire to pursue truth conscientiously. Learn more about Gutenberg College at gutenberg.edu.

Gutenberg Grant

Those who have completed at least 3 credits with Kepler are eligible for a \$1000, four-year, renewable grant at Gutenberg College. Those who have completed 6 or more credits and the Kepler diploma track are eligible for a \$2000, four-year, renewable grant. To learn more, schedule an appointment with Kepler's Academic Advisor, or visit Gutenberg's Grants and Scholarship page on their website at gutenberg.edu/tuition-aid/grants.

Alaska Snowfall

by Doyle Rockwell



Alaska Road

by Doyle Rockwell



Untitled

by Grace Harris



Untitled

by Grace Harris



Still Life

by Christiana Shire



Still Life

by Susannah Owen





City Lights

by Doyle Rockwell

The Lights of the city are blazing bright,
The azure skies are sweeping like a cloak.
Only, they are not lit by pure daylight,
For the sun has gone to its rest long ago.
Not one of the sun's radiant beams are in sight,
Just the city lights that man has made;
Though nature's darkness shrouds it with
possessing might,
Its deep sapphire beacons, like will o' wisps
that dance in a field
Put on a full display, so that all the world
may take delight
In manmade stars that boldly touch the sky.

For Pleasure

by Olivia Hentz



The Case for Trusting Tradition

by Dr. Zachary D. Schmoll

In his autobiographical work *Surprised by Joy*, C.S. Lewis realized that, as a young man, he had developed “chronological snobbery.” He described that tendency as “the uncritical acceptance of the intellectual climate common to our own age and the assumption that whatever has gone out of date is on that account discredited.” As an older, wiser man, he realized he should have asked a critical question of the past. “Was it ever refuted (and if so by whom, where, and how conclusively) or did it merely die away as fashions do?” Progress, by its contemporary definition, means to develop something that will make a positive difference in the world by throwing out that which is old. It also assumes that the past is necessarily inferior to the present, which is necessarily inferior to the future. G.K. Chesterton pointed out the faults of this assumption in his work *Heretics* and explained that no one could truly believe to be progressive unless they believed their sense of direction was infallible. He continued, “Progress by its very name indicates a direction; and the moment we are in the least doubtful about the direction, we become in the same degree doubtful about the progress.” However, there is nothing that makes a new idea inherently more valuable than an old idea. There is a strong case to be made that old ideas actually deserve a greater degree of consideration than anything brand-new that springs from the mind of an innovator.

Chesterton wrote in *Orthodoxy*, “Tradition means giving a vote to most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead.” He understood what so many ideologues fail to recognize. Old ideas have been tested in the crucible, and the fact that they still exist points to their strength. Like the process of refining gold, the application of heat and adversity burns off the impurities and leaves behind that which is good. As Lewis wrote in *The Abolition of Man*, “The human mind has no more power of inventing a new value than of imagining a new primary colour, or, indeed, of creating a new sun and a new sky for it to move in.” Tradition stands against the abuses of the reckless innovator by suggesting that value is objective. There is a collection of values that exists, because it has been recognized, and has been defended throughout history, even across cultures and centuries. It is wise to respect at least where the consensus has landed.

The ideas of Plato have been debated for thousands of years. Each generation has had the opportunity to “vote” in a sense on the worthiness of his thoughts. The fact that so many brilliant minds have found enough value in Plato to enshrine him in what has become known as the Western Canon

gives contemporary readers solid reason to take him seriously.

Accepting the value of Plato does not mean believing he got everything right, and some of his ideas on eugenics, for example, are blatantly wrong. However, his ideas are not wrong because they are old. Rather, there is a greater intellectual tradition, in conversation with the arguments brought forth by Plato, that has similarly developed over millennia supporting the value of all human lives. Ideas have developed, and individuals have interacted to create a stronger, interconnected intellectual network. The best concepts survive, and those that are weak fall away.

There will be times when new ideas are better than old ones. The main caution against new ideas is that they have not had to withstand sometimes severe criticism for thousands of years to prove their value. New ideas deserve extra scrutiny to make sure they are valuable. As C.S. Lewis wrote in his essay “On Reading Old Books,” “If you join at eleven o’clock a conversation which began at eight you will often not see the real bearing of what is said.” New ideas need to be considered in the light of larger conversations they are entering; innovation is not valuable simply by virtue of being innovative. On the other hand, great ideas are valued as great ideas because so many people throughout the ages have seen the wisdom in them. There is a gravity that comes along with tradition. It truly is a democracy that spans both time and space, and because so many people have found them invaluable, that lends them a degree of additional credence.

Some may say this is simply an argument from authority, but it is rather an appeal to common sense. If something has been reliable for generations despite valiant efforts to tear it down, then it is quite possible that we can trust it to withstand the attacks of this generation. Perhaps a new idea will come along and displace a tradition for the better. However, before we haphazardly throw out traditions as outdated or irrelevant, it would seem wise to consider Chesterton’s democracy of the dead.

Dr. Zachary Schmoll is the Managing Editor of An Unexpected Journal, a quarterly publication that seeks to demonstrate the truth of Christianity through both reason and imagination. He earned his MA in Apologetics at Houston Baptist University and a Ph.D. in Humanities at Faulkner University.



Kepler Education's Spring 2022 Course Catalog

Writing & Rhetoric

- **College Composition** with Dr. Aaron Hebbard

This course introduces the student to effective composition writing at the collegiate level. Emphasis is placed on critical reading, writing, and thinking by generating questions, investigating issues, and formulating well-grounded opinions.

- **Speech and Debate** with Dr. Aaron Hebbard

This course introduces and acquaints the student with the skills and art of public speaking. The student will learn the theories and techniques involved in preparing a speech, the strategies involved in delivering a speech, as well as the tactics of a formal debate. Students will be exposed to a variety of speech types including: personal introduction, testimony, informative, persuasive, demonstration, technological, Bible Study, individual and team debates, and a variety of impromptu.

These courses are part of a dual enrollment program with Colorado Christian University. Students taking this course will potentially follow a modified academic calendar, and will also need to register with CCU. When registering, identify the courses being taught by Imago Dei Academy, and select those.

Adult Learning & Teacher Certifications

- **Christ-centered Educational Methods (Pedagogy) - Part I** with Dr. Christy Anne Vaughan
- **Christ-centered Educational Methods (Pedagogy) - Part II** with Dr. Christy Anne Vaughan

These courses will aid both homeschool parents and former public school educators in renewing their minds to Christ-centered educational philosophies and methods. These courses are also suitable for senior thesis level preparation toward a career in Christian education.

- **Teacher Certification Track II - The Great Books and Liberal Arts** with Dr. Robert Woods
- **Teacher Certification Track III - Paideia Pedagogy Certification** with Dr. Robert Woods

These courses have been crafted to maximize their value to those serving within a Classical educational setting.

Photography

- **Photography for Art and Commerce 1** with Andrew Eads
- **Photography for Art and Commerce 2** with Andrew Eads

These courses teach the practice, history, technology, business, and art of photography, and explore the career opportunities available.

The deadline for registering for Spring 2022 Classes is January 14th

MUSIC

- **Music Theory, Analysis, and Composition II & III** with William Daniels

These courses are a guided exploration of music within God's created order. Integrating their critical thinking skills developed from other liberal arts training, students will examine and discuss musical phenomena from the ground level up. Students will be challenged to articulate their growing understanding of music with universal principles that find their telos in the glory of God.

- **History of Western Music: Classical, Romantic, and Modern** with Dr. Eliot Grasso

Music is a mirror that can reveal the interior life of an individual or the worldview of an entire culture. In this course, students will delve into the historical roles and contexts of music in Western Civilization. They will emerge with a greater understanding of the significance of music in culture and, in so doing, gain critical insights into what it means to be human.

Literature

- **Celtic Myth & YA Fantasy** with Helen Howell

This course provides students with a moral and technical guide to some recent YA authors by introducing a theme using a classical work (magic/fairyland, fate, star-crossed lovers, the anti-hero, dystopia, animal allegory) and illustrating inferior and superior treatments of that theme in related YA titles.

- **Science Fiction Classics** with Christine Norvell

Through a Christian lens, we will investigate what science fiction has to tell us about technology, humanism, posthumanism, the environment, and man's nature. Students will submit discussion questions or quotations each week and write one analytical essay per quarter, receiving feedback for rough and final drafts.

Unique

- **Fundamentals of Wilderness Survival** with Matthew Hunter

This course is designed to help beginners and experts alike become more self-sufficient in the remote backcountry, and be adequately prepared for an unexpected wilderness emergency. This course won't turn you into a competent woodsman, but it will give you all of the knowledge, resources, and skills you need to confidently turn YOURSELF into one!!!

- **Fireside Chat** with Josiah Nance

This is a class of rabbit trails—a chance to talk about the sorts of things teachers and students usually want to talk about during class, but don't have time for. The discussion, and the class overall, will be firmly rooted in a biblical worldview, and while some of the questions may not seem to directly tie into Christian doctrine, be assured that questions of this sort, when answered honestly, can hardly help but proclaim the name of God in the end.

Merry Christmas



from your student council!

