It is the end of the world. Indeed, it is a dream you have invested much energy in, or a relationship that has transformed into something unfamiliar and haunted, or a life force that has drained out of one you love. Broken pieces of hope lay scattered around at your tired feet, as you tread towards a future stained with shadows.

In the world of beauty and mystery, a world that challenges us to believe in meaning. This invitation thunders to us here, from the symphony of voices, each one playing a hand outstretched towards us, “Come and I will make you part in God’s kingdom, and instructing us to strive to follow the call of hope and renewal, to cultivate kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; to a place of the mind and of the spirit. You are welcome, my friends.

Let us mourn the end of worlds, the end of dreams. But that is not the end of the story; it is rather an engagement of Christian faith and culture in more than 30 remarkable books.
Taylor Reveley
Monday, August 29
Opening Convocation
6:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel
Taylor Reveley has served as President of the College of William and Mary since 2008, and was a partner at Wachtell, Littler & Maveary Law School for almost a decade. Formerly managing partner in the law firm of Holland & Hart, Reveley has extensively studied and written about the constitutional dimension of the war powers between the President and Congress. He wrote War Powers of the President and Congress, Who Has the Authority, and Why? (2010–2012) co-directed the War Powers Commission, which results in changes to the respective powers of the President and Congress over matters of war

Women and Culture in Appalachia: A Conversation—Emily Satterwhite, Jessica Turner, Theresa Burriss
Monday, September 12
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel
7:00 p.m. | The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, 520 Birthplace of Country Music Way, Bristol, Virginia
We welcome three female scholars of Appalachia to discuss various aspects of culture in our region. An important part of this project will be to look at how Christian faith shapes the arts, society, history, and arts. Emily Satterwhite (Virginia Tech), Jessica Turner (Richland University), and Theresa Burriss (University of Virginia) will share their perspectives and concerns.

Sarah Groves
Monday, September 26
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel
7:00 p.m. | Bristol Train Station, 101 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bristol, Virginia
Sarah Groves is a noted contemporary singer, record producer, and songwriter. A former high school teacher of English and history, she has been nominated for seven Dove Awards and produced a string of successful albums including her latest, Floodplain. which was inspired by the Mississippi River in her hometown and speaks of God’s provision. For 30 years, Groves has worked with International Justice Mission to advocate for victims of human trafficking. She resides in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she and husband Troy support community for artisans out of a century-old church called Art House North.

Timothy Beal
Monday, October 3
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel
7:00 p.m. | Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 700 Cumberlander St., Bristol, Virginia
Timothy Beal is the Frank M. Black Professor of Religion and chair of the Department of Religion Studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to being a bestselling author and historian of Christianity, he is a frequent contributor to a variety of venues including The New York Times, Christianity Today, the Washington Post, and the Daily Beast. He was named to the Publisher's Weekly "Top Book Religion Books of 2005" and the New York Times "Book Reviewer’s Choice." He is the author of eight books including "Roadside Religion: The Bible: The Unexpected History of an Accidental Book" which was named a New York Times "Editor’s Choice." He is an 18-time winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, and his most recent being a National Book Critics Circle Award. He has taught at Davidson College in North Carolina since 1984, and is currently the Charles A. Dana Professor of History at Davidson. He is the author of seven books of poetry, two novels, and four books of literary criticism. The recipient of numerous teaching and writing awards, Beal co-authored "What's in a Phrase? Pausing Where Scripture Gives You Pause" and "How Rev. Robert L. Deis and the Valley Missions Church in Bristol became a catalyst for economic empowerment and the formation of an urban African American working class in Bristol. Beal is also an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church and holds a doctorate in history, politics, and culture.

Nadia Bolz-Weber
Thursday, February 16
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel
7:00 p.m. | Central Presbyterian Church, 101 Elda Avenue, Bristol, Virginia
Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Strangers in Denver. She is the author of several award-winning memoirs, including "It’s Just What I Needed", "What’s in a Phrase? Pausing Where Scripture Gives You Pause" and "How Rev. Robert L. Deis and the Valley Missions Church in Bristol became a catalyst for economic empowerment and the formation of an urban African American working class in Bristol. Bolz is also an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church and holds a doctorate in history, politics, and culture.

Norman Wirzba
Monday, April 10
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel
7:00 p.m. | Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 701 Florida Avenue, Bristol, Virginia
Norman Wirzba is professor of theology, ecology, and rural life at Duke Divinity School at Duke University. A leading voice in environmental ethics and theology, Wirzba has contributed to the discourse on the intersections of theology, philosophy, ecology, and agrarian and environmental scholars. He has also written about the connections between the arts and the environment. As a professor of environmental ethics, he has been recognized for his interest and research in the intersections of theology, philosophy, ecology, and rural life.

Father Gregory Boyle
Wednesday, April 12
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel
7:00 p.m. | Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 701 Florida Avenue, Bristol, Virginia
The Rev. Gregory J. Boyle, SJ, is an American priest founded and currently directing Homeless Kitchen in Los Angeles, California, a successful gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program. Boyle is a popular speaker on gangs and intervention approaches and has received numerous accolades, including the California Peace Prize, 2014 Humanitarian of the Year (James Beard Foundation), and being named a 2014 Champion of Change by the White House. His book Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Bricolage Community was the Publisher’s Weekly 2010 list of Best Books and received the PEN/USA National Nonfiction Award.