



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**September 18, 2022 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**September 18, 2022 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**

“Rigaudon”

J.S. Bach André Campra,  
ad. James Biery

In worship, disparate people seek a unity far greater than the sum of themselves but don't have much control over how, or if, this happens. Recklessly, we let loose with music, and the words of hymns, the psalms, canticles, and prayers. We cast the Word of God out into the world, into each human heart, where, to paraphrase the prophet Isaiah, it needs to go to fulfill God's purpose.

— Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace*

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

Scott Turner

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

**Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.**

One: For no matter who you are or where you've been, you matter to God and to us.

**Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.**

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

**Choral Summons**

“This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made”

Timothy R. McKinney

**Processional Hymn, No. 337**

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

**Litany of Lament**

Joshua Stewart

One: God, things are broken...badly. In our hearts there is duplicity and the desire to serve many masters. In our bodies there are signs of aging and limitations, disease and misuse, neglect and disdain.

**Many: From broken bodies with unclean lips, we cry to you, Lord.**

One: Our community is cleft by a large chasm of resources and the distance between the haves and have-nots grows wider with each passing year. In so many ways we are still divided by race, by gender, by sexual identity, by political views, and even by church membership, and the gaps mockingly groan in their expansion rather than laugh in their contraction.

**Many: With severed neighbors with whom we struggle to love, we cry to you, Lord.**

One: Our world reflects the same division we find in our hearts and in our neighborhoods. Wars rage on and people do unthinkable things to their enemies and any who would stand in their way. Children suffer from explosions and malnutrition, from poison in bombs and in their water and food, from disease in their blood and on their skin.

**Many: From a wistful world wringing hands together over its plight, we cry to you, Lord.**

One: Lord we give voice to our laments because we believe you care, we believe you suffer with us, and we believe you are about the work of redemption.

**All: Hear our cries and wipe our tears with your faithful and merciful hand.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** Joshua Stewart

**Old Testament Reading** *Jeremiah 8:18-9:1* Becky Griffin

**Epistle Reading** *1 Timothy 2:1-7* Sam Griffin

**Hymn, No. 74** "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

**Gospel Reading** *Luke 16:1-13* Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God's People** Leslie Rosencrans

**Offertory** "Prelude in G Major" Op. 37, No. 2 Felix Mendelssohn

Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship.

## Doxology, No. 707

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

## Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.  
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

## Responsive Reading of Psalm 79:1-9

Erin Conaway

One: O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

**Many: They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.**

One: They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.

**Many: We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us. How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?**

One: Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.

**Many: For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.**

One: Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

**All: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.**

## Testimony

"The Family of God for You in This Place"

Sharon McNeil

## Anthem

"Amazing Grace"

arr. by Mack Wilberg

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease;  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun;  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.

## Sermon

“The Illusion of Control”  
*(Jeremiah 8:18-9:1)*

Erin Conaway

## Silent Reflection

What would it mean for Christians to give up that little piece of the American Dream that says, ‘You are limitless’? Everything is not possible. The mighty kingdom of God is not yet here. What if ‘rich’ did not have to mean ‘wealthy,’ and ‘whole’ did not have to mean ‘healed’? What if being the people of “the gospel” meant that we are simply people with good news? God is here. We are loved. It is enough.

— Kate Bowler, *Everything Happens For a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 543

“Abide with Me”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ  
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers  
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

## Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

**Pastoral Blessing**

Erin Conaway

**Choral Benediction**

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. by Mark Hayes

**Postlude**

“Fanfare”

William Mathias

## **Today at Seventh**

**Our Pianist today** is Jim Williams.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given in gratitude for the church family at Seventh & James.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

Permission to print music obtained from CCLI, license #1450684.