



Seventh & James Baptist Church
September 25, 2022 · 11:00 a.m.
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Adagio Cantabile”

Giuseppe Tartini

Welcome and Call to Worship

Matt Rosencrans

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

“Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal”

arr. by Robert Shaw

Processional Hymn, No. 341

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Litany of Giving

Joy Marshall

One: With Your praise still ringing in our ears, we count our blessings and seek to name them as they come to mind. For the beauty of this fellowship and the ones with whom we share life...God, we thank you. For the Grace of having stunning sacred space in which to worship you...God, we thank you. For the grandeur of your love and the transformation we come to know at Seventh & James...God, we thank you.

Many: God, help us to consider carefully our commitment to You and Your church in this place.

One: When we make decisions about how we spend our resources: our time, our talents, and our money, we reveal what is most important in our lives. We declare, in so many ways, our degree of trust in God’s provision of our needs. We show our willingness to love one another.

Many: Lord, we believe, help our unbelief.

One: We offer these commitments to you, neither in show nor in shame, but as our resolve to share our resources with one another and not retreat, but gain more ground as You continue to work and move in our hearts and lives.

All: Thank You, God, for the privilege of giving and all that it does to rightly align our souls toward You. Help us hear You calling us deeper into Your faithful hands as we consider the lilies and the birds...Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Joy Marshall

Old Testament Reading

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Kent McKeever

Epistle Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Katie Cook

Hymn, No. 671

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31

Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Scott Turner

Offertory

“Because I Have Been Given Much”

(SEMINARY)
Phillip Landgrave
arr. David L. Danner

Carolien Tantra, *piano*

Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

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.

First Grade Bible Presentation

Dillan Damping
Sienna Wickham

*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 146

Matt Rosencrans

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Many: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Many: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

Many: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

One: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

Many: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

One: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Anthem

“Ebenezer”

Heather Sorenson

There's a place of sacred mem'ry, there's a stone that bears my name,
On an altar in a wasteland with a promise I can claim.
There's a field of broken arrows, once my battleground of shame.
It's a place I go to visit, but a place I'll never stay.

Here I raise my Ebenezer. Here by heaven's grace I've come
To this landmark of redemption where healing has begun
Here I build this sacred altar as a tribute of Your might
May this shrine now be my fortress and this pillar be my light.

There's a place that to the others looks like nothing more than loss,
But this field of stone and rubble is the place I find my cross.

Here I raise my Ebenezer. Here by heaven's grace I've come
To this landmark of redemption where healing has begun.
Here I kneel, my heart surrendered, at this wall of sacred stones.
Here I lay down ev'ry idol and the fear of the unknown.
There's a landmark of redemption, there's a pillar of your grace
Where I kneel and I remember salvation in this place.

Sermon

“Hollow Pillars”
(1 Timothy 6:6-19)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

When we begin to take the Scriptures seriously, ‘You cannot serve God and Money’ (Matt.6:24 NEB) becomes a personal address. One would expect God to applaud our small efforts at faithfulness; instead, a Spirit comes and takes us where we are not yet prepared to go. As we become exposed to the poor and their needs, the rich young ruler and the widow and her mite lose the storybook quality of our childhood faith, and become figures in the counter-culture literature of a revolutionary leader — the very one whom we call Saviour. The First Commandment and all the Scriptures on the worship of idols begin to lay bare our own primitive selves. Some of us have looked into the face of our idols and found that one of them is money.

— Elizabeth O'Connor, *Call to Commitment*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 665

“Because I Have Been Given Much”

*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 “May the Lord Christ Walk Ahead of You”

Timothy R. McKinney

Postlude

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(Dix)

Anna Laura Page