



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**January 1, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The First Sunday after Christmas**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Piano Meditation**

Tommy Edds, *piano*

**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.

**Gathering Hymn**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now:  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever-more.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save;  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save.

**Litany of Work and Word**

Leslie Rosencrans

One: Lord, we pledge our truth by giving someone our word. You pledged your love by sending us the Word, but unlike you, our word doesn't always match our deeds.

**Many: Lord, help us to speak and live in your Word.**

One: There are people who say one thing and then do another. We don't like "those people," especially when we realize with all that we sing and all that we say as followers of Christ, we are "those people."

**Many: Lord, help us to speak and live in your Word.**

One: God, forgive us when we don't act like your children and give us courage to overcome our own hypocrisy and to roll up our sleeves and start again at the task of growing your Kingdom.

**Many: Lord, help us to speak and live in your Word, that our neighbors might see our lives and hear our words and come to know your Loving Grace.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leslie Rosencrans

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 63:7-9*

Matt Rosencrans

**Epistle Reading**

*Hebrews 2:10-18*

Erin Conaway

**Hymn**

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lonely plains they bend on hovering wing.  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the heavenly angels sing.

All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 2:13-23*

Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## Prayers of God's People

Scott Turner

## Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.*

## Offertory

Tommy Edds, *piano*

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

## Doxology

*(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")*

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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

## Sermon

"Helping..."  
*(Isaiah 63:7-9)*

Erin Conaway

## Silent Reflection

There are some of us who think to ourselves, "If I had only been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby. I would have washed His linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!" Why don't we do it now? We have Christ in our neighbor.

— Martin Luther

## Hymn of Commitment

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

*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 Harper Hall.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

### **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

### **Postlude**

Tommy Edds, *piano*

## **Today at Seventh**

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