



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**January 29, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**



**Many: Comfort us where we are afflicted and afflict us where we are comfortable...**

One: There are people in our midst who were not born with the same privilege we have forgotten and many of our brothers and sisters are literally hungry and thirsty, not only for bread and water, but for the Bread and Wine that will feed their souls into eternity.

**All: Create in us a taste for righteousness that will linger on our tongues. Fill our empty places, but don't let us forget our hunger pangs, that we might be agents of your mercy and grace in a world that has fallen so far from righteousness and is longing for your redemption, like the deer panting for water.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** Sam Griffin

**Meditation** “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit” Roberta Rowland-Raybold

**Old Testament Reading** *Micah 6:1-8* Sean Sutcliffe

**Epistle Reading** *1 Corinthians 1:18-31* Becky Griffin

**Hymn, No. 577** “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

**Gospel Reading** *Matthew 5:1-12* Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Many: Thanks be to God.**

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

**Offertory** “Blessed Are the Merciful” Roberta Rowland-Raybold

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 15

Scott Turner

One: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

**Many: who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;**

One: in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

**All: who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

## Anthem

“Blest Are They”

David Haas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Rejoice and be glad, blessed are you; holy are you.

Rejoice and be glad, yours is the Kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they, who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God.

Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom, shine for all to see.

## Sermon

“Brimming With Joy...”

Erin Conaway

*(Matthew 5:1-12)*

## Silent Reflection

The blessing of God, whose love creates new life and whose fire burns away our impurities, be with you in your journey of life. The blessing of God, whose love has the power to transform our living from old habits into new hope, be with you always. The

blessing of God, whose Spirit blesses our spirit with wisdom and vision, embolden you to proclaim the Good News of God's love to all. Amen.

— Vienna Cobb Anderson, *Prayers of Our Hearts*

### **Hymn of Commitment, No. 660**

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

*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 Response**

“Depart Now”

Ed Wilson

Depart now and as you go remember  
It's in the goodness of God that you were born into this world.  
And by the mercy of God you have been kept all through the day,  
And through the love of God seen in the face of Christ,  
That you are being redeemed. Amen.

### **Postlude**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

(AZMON, Carl G. Gläser)  
Robert A. Hobby