

The background is a deep purple with lighter purple, wavy, layered shapes that create a sense of depth. A large, solid black cross is positioned on the right side. Several palm fronds are scattered throughout the design, some overlapping the wavy shapes and the cross. The overall aesthetic is modern and spiritual.

Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 12, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday in Lent
Living Questions

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March 12, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday in Lent

Living Questions: Is the Lord among us or not?

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Our Father, Who Art in Heaven”

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leslie Rosencrans

One: We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,

Many: Who welcomes our questions,

One: Who invites us to begin again.

Many: We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,

One: A deeper faith,

Many: A more compassionate existence.

One: We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation, and that no matter how many times we lose our way,

All: God always welcomes us home.

— Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
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Choral Summons

“Psalm 95”

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Processional Hymn, No. 48

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leslie Rosencrans

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 17:1-7* Carolien Tantra
Dillan Damping

Epistle Reading *Romans 5:1-11* Holly Land

Hymn, No. 461 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Gospel Reading *John 4:5-14* Erin Conaway

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

Prayers of God’s People Erin Conaway

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory “Fill My Cup, Lord” arr. Herbert Colvin

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

Doxology

(sung to O WALY, WALY, tune of “When Love Is Found,” No. 524)

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.

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.*

Confession

Daniel Farris

One: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you...

Many: in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

One: We have not loved you with our whole heart;

Many: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

One: We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Many: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: Strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

— *The Book of Common Prayer*

Anthem

“Just As I Am”

K. Lee Scott

Faith Allen, *soprano solo*

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of thy great love; the breadth, length, height, and depth to prove,
Here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come.

Sermon

“Is The LORD Among Us or Not?”

Erin Conaway

(Exodus 17:1-7)

Communion

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Silent Reflection

Life offers us the possibility of claiming these three life-changing gifts: the experience of love and friendship; recurring experiences of beauty and order; and a few undeniable experiences of transcendence in our search for our elusive God, if we are prepared to give attention to the one who is the source of our lives, and discern his presence both in people and in his creation.

— Michael Mayne, *The Enduring Melody*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 633

“All the Way My Savior Leads 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.

Going Out

Daniel Farris

One: We have questions, some are trivial and some rise from the unseen depths of our souls.

Many: We seek your face, O Lord....

One: Not only the answers...but the love, the grace, the mercy, and the mystery in which we trust you will reveal enough for us to move forward together.

Many: As our shared focus grows darker in this room, may the light we carry to the world grow ever brighter.

One: Guide us to love, even when it hurts;

Many: Help us to walk in faith, even when the way is hidden;

One: Be with us as we journey into eternity and your victorious kingdom

All: As we begin and continue, even now. Amen.

Choral Response “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” William Williams

Postlude “If Thou Would Suffer God to Guide Thee,” BWV 642 J.S. Bach

Today at Seventh

On Communion Sundays, the Benevolence offering is received at the doors to help our neighbors in need.

Our Pianist today is Jim Williams.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in celebration of Jim Williams’ 75th birthday on March 14.

The Art on the cover was designed by Rachel Farris.

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

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