

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 across the scene, some appearing as dark silhouettes and others as lighter, semi-transparent shapes. The overall aesthetic is modern and spiritual.

Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 26, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Living Questions

Seventh & James Baptist Church

March 26, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Living Questions: Do You Believe This?

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Pie Jesu” from *Requiem*

Gabriel Fauré

Welcome and Call to Worship

Erin Conaway

One: Creator God, why is bad news so loud?

Many: In the midst of gun violence, hunger, melting ice caps, and anxiety,

One: It often feels like suffering has a microphone.

Many: How do we hear you?

One: How do we find you?

Many: How do we know that these bones can live?

One: Today we bring our raw selves into this space asking that once more you would rush through this room like a mighty wind.

Many: Remind us that these bones can live.

One: Speak to us in your still, small voice

All: And let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day.

— Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Choral Summons

“Psalm 130”

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;

Let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him, in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning,

More than watchmen for the morning.

Processional Hymn, No. 425

“How Firm a Foundation”

Litany Against God's Absence

Leslie Rosencrans

One: All power, honor, glory be to you! You...sometimes hidden, silent, absent, unresponsive.

Many: Bread of heaven, wine of promise, feed us with your Holy Word.

One: We are so privileged that we seldom sense you hidden, silent, absent, unresponsive. But we know people who do; we think of places where you do not appear.

Many: Nourish us with your strong presence, risen Savior, only Lord.

One: We imagine you defeated, weak, held captive. And we wait, a day, two days, until the third day.

Many: Jesus, at your holy table may our hearts united be.

One: And then, most often then, quite reliably then, you appear in your full glory.

Many: Christ, remind us of your passion, of your precious life out-poured, of the love which none can fathom, and our victory evermore.

One: This day we pray against your absence, silence, and hiddenness. Come with full power into deadly places, and we will praise you deep and full.

Many: Silent lips now sing with gladness, blinded eyes are filled with sight. Jesus' love has pierced our darkness, brought us home to peace and light.

— adapted from Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* and Tom Allen, "Jesus, at Your Holy Table"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leslie Rosencrans

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-6

Amy Coker

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:6-11

Charlie Coker

Hymn, No. 486

"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

Gospel Reading

John 11:32-45

Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Daniel Farris

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.

The Work of God's People

Kent McKeever
Greater Waco Legal Services

Offertory

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

(WONDROUS LOVE)
Michael Burkhardt

Yuri Hatakeyama, *organ*

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.*

Anthem

“What Wondrous Love Is This?”

arr. Heather Sorenson

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To send his precious hope for my soul, for my soul?
To send his precious hope for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy), have mercy upon my soul.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Sermon

“Do You Believe This?”
(John 11:32-45)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.

— Frederick Buechner

Hymn of Commitment, No. 474

“Softly and Tenderly”

*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

“He Humbled Himself”

Timothy R. McKinney

He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Postlude

“Kyrie”

Gordon Young

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Carolien Tantra.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in of the honor of the Segrests’ and Walkers’ anniversaries.

The Art on the cover was designed by Rachel Farris.

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

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