



Seventh & James Baptist Church
June 18, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

(DOWN AMPNEY,
R. Vaughan Williams)
Robert A. Hobby

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

“Gracious Spirit”

Timothy R. McKinney

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now Thy grace to see, I would be like Thee;
And, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me know Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee;
And, with wisdom kind and clear; Thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions, loving, speak Christ's sincerity.
Gracious Spirit, Truthful Spirit, Holy Spirit, Mighty Spirit, dwell with me.

Processional Hymn, No. 281

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Litany of God's Faithfulness

Dann Walker

One: Holy and sustaining God, we gather before you this morning having passed by countless examples of your grace and guidance.

Many: Faithful God, open our eyes to see your presence emblazoned across our world.

One: We remember fretting over closed doors and blocked paths and can now see you made a way for us to fill these pews and inhabit this space. Some of us are looking at the barriers around us and need to remember that we are in your guiding hands, we are your children, and we are loved and cherished beyond our wildest imagination.

Many: Faithful God, strengthen our courage to stand in faith and walk in your light.

One: We are fickle followers dropping so quickly from faithful thanksgiving into forgetful despair. We grow numb to the weight of your story across the ages and think it might change in our situation or on this day, but you remain God...present and pulling us ever closer to your heart where we belong.

Many: Faithful God, transform us even deeper into the followers you created us to be.

One: Buoyed by your consistency not only in our lives but in the lives of sinners throughout our history, we thank you for your unwavering love and the comfort it brings us when we choose to see it.

All: Let us walk this path as faithful ones—following the Way, sharing the Truth, and dancing in your glorious Life!

Prayer of Thanksgiving Dann Walker

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 19:2-8a* Ava Farris

Epistle Reading *Romans 5:1-8* Beverly Walker

Hymn, No. 584 “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

Gospel Reading *Matthew 9:35-10:8* Daniel Farris

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

Prayers of God’s People Daniel Farris

Offertory

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

(MORECAMBE)
Joyce Jones

(Joyce Jones was a concert organist, Baylor organ professor, and member of Seventh.)

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

Gloria Patri, No. 704

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, 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 100

Matt Rosencrans

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

**Many: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are
his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him,
bless his name.

**All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his
faithfulness to all generations.**

Anthem

“Instrument of Grace”

Joseph M. Martin

Let the word of Christ dwell richly now within you.

Teaching one another with psalms, teaching one another with your hymns of praise.

Let your life be music; an instrument of grace. Let the word of Christ now dwell in you.

Clothe yourself with love and humility; fill your heart with peace and with charity.

In every word give thanks to God; with every deed give praise to God;

With every song glorify the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father.

Let your every song give thanks. Let every alleluia give God glory, honor, and praise.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly now within you.

Teaching one another with psalms, teaching one another with your hymns of praise.

Let your life be glorious music; an instrument of grace.

Sermon

“The Absurdity of Hope”
(Romans 5:1-8)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

No lists of things to be done. The day providential to itself. The hour. There is no later. This is later. All things of grace and beauty such that one holds them to one’s heart have a common provenance in pain. Their birth in grief and ashes.

— Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 586

“Grace Greater Than Our Sin”

*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

“Here I Am, Lord”

Daniel L. Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Postlude

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German