



Seventh & James Baptist Church
July 2, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“How Firm a Foundation”

(FOUNDATION,
American Hymn Tune)
Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Call to Worship

Erin Conaway

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

“Sing to the Lord”

Emily Crocker

Sing to the Lord a song of jubilation. Sing to the Lord a song of joy.
Praise Him with sounding brass. Praise Him with sounding strings.
All heaven and earth resound with thanksgiving.
Sing to the Lord a song of jubilation. Sing to the Lord a song of joy.

Processional Hymn, No. 335

“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”

Litany of Commitment

Paula Hoover

One: Create in each of us a kneeling place, where we may empty ourselves of our self-importance and become vulnerable to your Word to us.

Many: Let the scales fall from our eyes and blind us with your mercy.

One: Help us set our faces firmly against friendly suggestions for safe, expedient lives

and toward the risk of discipleship. Loosen our grip on certainties that smother possibilities. Forgive our resistance to change.

Many: Convict us where we are double-minded and give us the courage to choose.

One: Let us pursue the adventure of losing our lives in order to find them in you. Guide us to follow the way of the cross where despair is transformed by the promise of new life and where we are compelled to intercede for those who have more pain in their lives than hope.

All: When we are too rushed to care; too tired to bother; too preoccupied to listen; too quick to act from motives other than compassion...God, transform us, hold our feet in the fire of your costly grace so we can see our actions in light of your love.

—adapted from Sharlande Sledge,
Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Seasons, p. 48

Prayer of Thanksgiving Paula Hoover

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 28:5-9* Carl Hoover

Epistle Reading *Romans 6:12-23* Carolyn Casey

Hymn, No. 283 “Holy Presence, Holy Teacher”

Gospel Reading *Matthew 10:40-42* Leslie Rosencrans

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

Prayers of God’s People Leslie Rosencrans

Offertory “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (NETTLETON, John Wyeth,
American hymn tune)
Paul Manz

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 89:1-4, 15-18

Daniel Farris

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Many: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

One: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

Many: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

One: Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;

Many: They exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness.

One: For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

All: For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Anthem

"O Sing to the Lord"

Dan Davison

O sing to the Lord, you saints of the Mighty.
Sing to the Lord and bless His holy name.
The name of the Lord is to be exalted; worship the Lord.
The name of the Lord is greatly to be praised.
The voice of the Almighty is majestic.
The voice of the almighty God is powerful.
And holy is his name.
Declare to the world the splendor of his name!
The Lord will give this strength unto his people.
The Lord will bless his people with his peace.
Glory to God! Glory to God!
Let all of his creation sing his praise! Bless his name!

Sermon

“Be Kind...”
(*Matthew 10:40-42*)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

Philip Melancthon argued that the experience of God’s love produces loving acts of kindness. ‘The soul cannot but love God in return and be joyful, and express its gratitude by some mutual kindness as it were for such great mercy...Therefore it imparts itself to all its neighbors and serves them, placing itself at their disposal, considering their wants as its own, doing all things with everyone candidly, sincerely, without self-seeking and with no malice. Such is the efficacy of faith as it appears from the works of those whose hearts are possessed by true faith.

— *Reformation Studies: Essays in Honor of Roland Bainton*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 657

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

*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

“May the Love of the Lord”

Swee Hong Lim

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God’s love dwell in you throughout every day.
May God’s countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God’s Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

Postlude

“Postlude on Two American Folk Hymns”

Charles Callahan