



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**July 16, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**

**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**

“This Day”

Allen Pote

from *The Lost Boy: Young Jesus in the Temple*

**Children's Music Camp Choir**

This day we celebrate; this day a holy date.  
This day we will await and sing our God is great!  
This day we lift our voices; this day no longer slaves.  
This day our land rejoices; this day our God has saved!

**Processional Hymn, No. 310**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

**Responsive Reading**

Ann Sims

One: We want to be the faithful family of God, but sometimes we forget.

**Many: We will remember the things God did for us when we came out of Egypt. (Exodus 13:8)**

One: We want to find Jesus, but sometimes we get distracted.

**Many: “When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.”** (*Jeremiah 29:13*)

One: We want to follow Jesus, but sometimes we get lost and we don’t even know it.

**Many: Just as Jesus leaves the ninety-nine sheep to look for the one who is lost, Jesus will look for us.** (*Luke 15:4-6*)

One: We want to learn more about what it means to follow Jesus, but sometimes we don’t understand the things Jesus says.

**Many: “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”** (*Matthew 4:19*)

One: We want to love like Jesus, but sometimes it’s hard.

**Many: “We love because he first loved us.”** (*1 John 4:19*)

One: We want to be followers of Jesus.

**All: God, help us to remember, seek, follow, learn, and love. Amen.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Ann Sims

**Reflection through Scripture and Song**

Dann Walker

“Master of the Temple”

from *The Lost Boy: Young Jesus in the Temple*

**Children’s Music Camp Choir**

**Old Testament Reading**

*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26*

Dan McNeil

**Hymn, No. 601**

“O How I Love Jesus”

**Gospel Reading**

*Luke 2:41-52*

Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People**

Leslie Rosencrans

## Offertory

*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 65:1-13

Scott Turner

One: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

**Many: When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.**

One: Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

**Many: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

One: By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

**Many: You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.**

One: Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

**Many: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.**

One: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

**Many: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**

One: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

**All: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

**Sermon**

“Why Are You Searching for Me?”

Erin Conaway

*(Luke 2:41-52)*

### **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. 278**

“We Are Travelers on a Journey”

*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**

“How Did We Fail to Notice?”

Allen Pote

from *The Lost Boy: Young Jesus in the Temple*

#### **Children’s Music Camp Choir**

How did we fail to notice? When did we grow so blind?  
Why did we get so distracted? Where did we leave him behind?  
Teach us again to know you, teach us to stay at your side.

Teach us to sing alleluia, praising you with our lives.  
Remember the day when he whispered your name and told you the story was true.  
Remember the moment you gave him your heart, every hour was new.  
Remember the love of the friends you found, a family none can destroy.  
Remember the time he answered your prayer, your spirit surrendered to joy.  
Allelu, Alleluia, our seeking will come to an end.  
Allelu, Alleluia, in the arms of our Savior and friend.  
Allelu, Alleluia, let this be our prayer and our song:  
To be found with the One who loves us in the home where we know we belong.

## **Postlude**