



Seventh & James Baptist Church
July 30, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“How Great Thou Art”

(O STORE GUD)
arr. Joyce Jones

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

“Be Still and Know”

Fred Bock

Be still and know that I am God.

Processional Hymn, No. 340

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

Litany of Praying

Sam Conaway

One: When we pray, we have the potential to bring all of who we are before God. We engage our minds in what we believe about God and what we think about our world. We engage our hearts as we articulate our emotions. We engage our bodies with our postures of humility or desperation. And we engage our souls as we open them up to God's whisper.

Many: O God who hears our prayer, continue to teach us to pray and be open before you.

One: There are certainly times when we reach the limit of our ability to put into words the contents of our hearts and minds, so we groan with our bodies and yearn in our souls to find comfort and your peace, O God. There are also times when we struggle to pay attention; we find it hard to quiet the storms raging in our minds or in our hearts and we just sit in prayerful obedience with you.

Many: Help us to pray, especially when it is difficult and fleeting.

One: And there are times when we know how we want to pray, we have a sense for how we ought to pray, but our loathing for our enemies, our fear of the answer, and our shame prevent us from bringing our honest prayer to you.

Many: Lord, give us the courage to pray in the midst of rage, despair, and guilt.

One: We believe you hear our prayers. We trust you will listen beyond our fumbling words and anxious hearts. We know that we are fully known by you, so help us to pray for ourselves and for our sisters and brothers—all of them. Help us to grow in our trust in you.

All: Fill us with your Holy Spirit as we seek to be open before you and trust in your love.

Prayer of Thanksgiving		Sam Conaway
Old Testament Reading	<i>1 Kings 3:5-12</i>	Carmen Conaway
Epistle Reading	<i>Romans 8:26-39</i>	Alex Conaway
Hymn, No. 573		“It Is Well with My Soul”
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</i>	Erin Conaway
	One: This is the Word of the Lord. Many: Thanks be to God.	
Prayers of God’s People		Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

Our inner life, our emotional life, our prayer life, is where we first do our battles, and then we are prepared for our outer life conflicts. It is on the inside of us that lepers and wolves first live. If we haven't been able to kiss many lepers, if we haven't been able to tame many wolves in the outer world, it's probably because we haven't first of all made friends with our own leprosy and the ferocious wolf within each of us. They are always there in some form, waiting to be tamed and needing to be forgiven.

— Richard Rohr

Hymn of Commitment, No. 41

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*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

“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 glorious music, an instrument of grace.

Postlude

“Prelude in Classic Style”

Gordon Young