



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**August 27, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**

“God Himself Is Present”

(WUNDERBARER KÖNIG,  
Joachim Neander)  
setting by Michael Burkhardt

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

Scott Turner

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**

“Psalm 100”

Euell Porter

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye lands.  
Serve the Lord with gladness: Come into His presence with singing.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord.

**Processional Hymn, No. 566**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**Litany of Love in Deeds**

Jim Kennedy

One: The hour was late. The place was desolate and remote, and the disciples asked you to send the crowd away so they could go to the villages and buy food for themselves. Their request was reasonable, logical, and eminently practical.

**Many: Your love, O Christ, is beyond reasonable. It defies logic but so often shows up in tangible, practical ways as you dole it out through the hands of our neighbors.**

One: We too often find ourselves saying directly or with our actions, “Peace, peace...” when there is no peace for those who don’t know how they will find their next meal. There is no peace for parents who have to lie to their children to comfort them in their agonizing hunger. There is no peace for children who go home from school on the weekends worried about how they will survive until Monday.

**Many: In our cities and around the world, hunger spits in the face of our too-comfortable lives...give us courage, O God, to do better.**

One: “Little children, let us love in deed and truth...” God forgive us where our words and good intentions haven’t resulted in actions of truth and deeds of justice. Convict us of the gap and guide our steps as we seek to do better.

**All: For you love us all, the sated and the thirsty, and like any parent, you want your children to care well for each other. Help us to love deeper in deed and in truth.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** Jim Kennedy

**Old Testament Reading** *Exodus 1:8-2:10* Donna Kennedy

**Epistle Reading** *Romans 12:1-8* Blake Burleson

**Hymn, No. 19** “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

**Gospel Reading** *Matthew 16:13-20* Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People** Matt Rosencrans

**Offertory** “Abide with Me” arr. Kurt Kaiser/Herbert Colvin

Donnie Balmos, *piano*

Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

*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 124

Daniel Farris

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—

**Many: if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,**

One: then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

**Many: then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;**

One: then over us would have gone the raging waters.

**Many: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.**

One: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

## Anthem

“I Will Be a Child of Peace”

Elaine Hagenberg

O Holy Father, I will be a child of peace and purity  
For well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

## Sermon

“Daring Love”  
*(Exodus 1:8-2:10)*

Erin Conaway

## Silent Reflection

Love is dangerous because it always threatens to change us and to demand our penitence. It is the opposite of the forces which try and keep us and the world as it is. Divine love moves us and the creation on towards the as yet unseen fullness of the purpose of God for all. The result of this is the energizing of service and the creating of new vocations. Such energizing begins to attack the despair, the disillusionment and the alienation of the secular world. The powerful forces of materialism which depend for their success on the weakness and inactivity of the alienated are undermined by the energizing effect of love on the excluded.

The alternative characteristic of the Church is not in some separated culture but in its struggle to prevent the world excluding what God has included. Its service is always challenging the assumptions of the prevailing power structures of the time. It constantly points forward, refusing to allow the world to stay where it is, but encouraging it to move on by addressing the experience of the victims of the present. Social action is not a luxury on the edge of Church life but integral to its identity as a gospel institution.

— John Gladwin, *Love and Liberty: Faith and Unity in a Postmodern Age*

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 499

“I Surrender All”

*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

## Congregational Benediction “The Lord’s Prayer”

Albert Hay Malotte

Our Father, which 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Postlude**

“Cortege”

Gordon Young

## **Today at Seventh**

**Our Pianist today** is Donnie Balmos.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given in memory of two wonderful parents, Robert and Joyce Jones, on what would be their 70th wedding anniversary. Given by Robin, Russell, and Elizabeth Edgerton; and Jan, Greg, Heather, Haley, and Jeffrey Brown.

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

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