



Seventh & James Baptist Church
September 3, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(Dix)
John Ferguson

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

“Blessed Be the Name of the Lord”

Dale Grotenhuis

Praise ye the Lord. Praise Him, o ye servants of the Lord.
Praise the name of the Lord, praise the Lord!

Processional Hymn, No. 307

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Litany of Life Together

Julie Carter

One: God of Grace, we indeed praise you. The One to whom the sun and moon do bow; the One to whom the waves of the seas submit their fury; the One to whom we turn in desperation and joy.

Many: You are the One we worship: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

One: Just as you exist in trinitarian community, you created us to dwell together. To share not only our lives as we live them in communion, but also our bread, our money, our hearts, our kindness, our homes, our tables, our sorrows, and our victories.

Many: Give us the courage to live radically together as your church, as your people.

One: Your love and grace extend beyond our boundaries and imagination. Infect us with that kind of inviting love so that we too may welcome the stranger, give to one another as you have given to us, and share our lives and love in ways that shout your story to the nations.

All: We are children of your grace; move us closer to one another as you draw us closer to you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Julie Carter

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 3:1-15* Sean Sutcliffe

Epistle Reading *Romans 12:9-21* Euridice Alvarez

Hymn, No. 484 “The Love of Jesus Calls Us”

Gospel Reading *Matthew 16:21-28* Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People Scott Turner

Offertory “Prelude in G” Op. 37, No. 2 Felix Mendelssohn

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 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Matt Rosencrans

One: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Many: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

One: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Many: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

One: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

Many: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

One: Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

Many: And the Lord made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes,

One: Whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

All: He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen. Praise the Lord!

Anthem

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

arr. by Tom Trenney

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move, and live, and grow in you, and you in me.

Sermon

“Let Love Be Unhypocritical”
(Romans 12:9-21)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.

— James Baldwin

Hymn of Commitment, No. 491

“Wherever He Leads, I'll Go”

*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

“The Grace of Our Lord
Jesus Christ Be Upon You”

Herbert Colvin

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you;
The love of God, the Father, be with you;
And the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be yours, now and evermore. Amen.

Postlude

“Concerto in C Major” BWV 595

(after ERNST)
J.S. Bach

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is David DeLoach.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by friends of Katie Cook in memory of her oldest brother, Lawrence Milton Cook.

The Foyer Flowers are given by Hayley Sharp in celebration of Pat Sharp's 81st birthday, September 4.

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

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