



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**September 10, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**

“Blessed Jesus, We Are Here”

J.S. Bach

**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**

“O Love of God Most Full”

John Purifoy

O love of God most full, O love of God most free,  
Come warm my heart, come fill my soul, come lead me unto thee. Amen.

**Processional Hymn, No. 354**

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

**Responsive Reading of Psalm 149**

Joshua Stewart

One: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

**Many: Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**

One: Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

**Many: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.**

One: Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

**Many: Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,**

One: to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

**All: to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the Lord!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Joshua Stewart

**Old Testament Reading**

*Exodus 12:1-11*

Tommy Edds

**Epistle Reading**

*Romans 13:8-14*

Lise Uhl

**Hymn, No. 456**

“I Come with Joy”

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 18:15-20*

Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People**

Leslie Rosencrans

**Offertory**

“Communion”

Charles Tournemire

*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.*

## Confession

Scott Turner

One: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you...

**Many: In thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

One: We have not loved you with our whole heart;

**Many: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

One: We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**Many: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.**

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**All: Strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.**

— *The Book of Common Prayer*

## Anthem

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

Claude L. Bass

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,  
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men,  
From the best bliss that earth imparts,  
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;  
Thou savest those that on Thee call;  
To them that seek Thee, Thou art good,  
To them that find Thee all in all.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,  
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;  
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,  
Blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,  
Make all our moments calm and bright;  
Chase the dark night of sin away;  
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

## Sermon

“Love Like There’s No Tomorrow”  
*(Romans 13:8-14)*

Erin Conaway

## Communion

*All communion bread is gluten-free.*

*Please come forward to receive Communion from one of the three stations at the front of the sanctuary. You will be served the bread and the cup. A basket is available for your empty cup once you are finished. To ease congestion, please walk down the aisle on the right and return on the left of your aisle. You may come to any of the three stations. Communion will be brought to anyone not able to come forward; please raise your hand as the Minister and Deacon walk back to serve you.*

## Silent Reflection

The most significant thing is community, others say. We are not alone anymore. But the final word is love. At times it has been, in the words of Father Zossima, a harsh and dreadful thing, and our very faith in love has been tried through fire. We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love, we must know each other. We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship.

— Dorothy Day

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 267

“Blest Be the Tie”

*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**

“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”

Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether; For when humbly in thy name,  
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment’s hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.

## **Postlude**

“O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

(AZMON)  
Paul Manz

## **Today at Seventh**

**On Communion Sundays**, the Benevolence offering is received at the doors to help our neighbors in need.

**Our Pianist today** is Jim Williams.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given in celebration of Donna & Jim Kennedy’s 50th wedding anniversary by Erin, Wade, and Kennedy.

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

Permission to print music obtained from CCLI, license #1450684.

## **The Prayers of the Church**

**Those on Mission:** Lynn Hutchinson (Africa/Middle East)...

**Church Family:** Daryle Echols (seizure and fall)... Helen Jones (Ft. Worth)... Kevin Marshall (deterioration of his left cornea)... Kay Pennington (recovering from hip replacement surgery, Brookdale Lake Shore Assisted Living, Room #405)... Mike Jones (recovering from knee replacement surgery)... Sharon McNeil... Jim Purdy (Stoney Brook Assisted Living)... Dorothy Schleicher (back surgery, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Facility)... Hayley Sharp...

**Other Loved Ones & Friends:** Nancy Brickhouse’s mother, Jo Ann Whiteside (spine compression fracture (Kilgore)... Charlie and Robin Brown... Lee & Julie Carter’s niece, Laura McNutt (good report on her recent body scan, back on chemo treatment for