



Seventh & James Baptist Church
September 17, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Rigaudon”

André Campra,
ed. James Biery

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leslie 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. (Psalm 46:10)

Processional Hymn, No. 33

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Litany of God's Faithfulness

Blake Burleson

One: Holy and sustaining God, we gather before you this morning having passed by countless examples of your grace and guidance.

Many: Faithful God, open our eyes to see your presence emblazoned across our world.

One: We remember fretting over closed doors and blocked paths and can now see you made a way for us to fill these pews and inhabit this space. Some of us are looking at the barriers around us and need to remember that we are in your guiding hands, we are your children, and we are loved and cherished beyond our wildest imagination.

Many: Faithful God, strengthen our courage to stand in faith and walk in your light.

One: We are fickle followers dropping so quickly from faithful thanksgiving into forgetful despair. We grow numb to the weight of your story across the ages and think it might change in our situation or on this day, but you remain God...present and pulling us ever closer to your heart where we belong.

Many: Faithful God, transform us even deeper into the followers you created us to be.

One: Buoyed by your consistency not only in our lives but in the lives of sinners throughout our history, we thank you for your unwavering love and the comfort it brings us when we choose to see it.

All: Let us walk this path as faithful ones—following the Way, sharing the Truth, and dancing in your glorious Life!

Prayer of Thanksgiving		Blake Burleson
Old Testament Reading	<i>Exodus 14:19-31</i>	Tim McKinney
Epistle Reading	<i>Romans 14:1-12</i>	Cyndi McKinney
Hymn, No. 379		“Let All Things Now Living”
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	Daniel Farris
	One: This is the Word of the Lord. Many: Thanks be to God.	
Prayers of God’s People		Daniel Farris
Offertory	“Trio in G Minor, Op. 49, No. 1”	Josef Rheinberger
	<i>Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship.</i>	

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 114

Matt Rosencrans

One: When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

Many: Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

One: The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

Many: The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

One: Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

Many: O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

One: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

All: Who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

Anthem

“We Sing the Mighty Power of God”

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

We sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

We sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where'er we turn our eyes,
If we survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known,
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
And everywhere that we can be, you, God, are present there.

Sermon

“Frightened to Faith?”
(Exodus 14:19-31)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

At the center of the beloved community is good news — a framing story that calls humanity to creativity, harmony, reconciliation, justice, virtue, integrity, and peace, because these values reflect the character of the Creator whose world is our home and in whose presence we live and move and have our being. In short: we are all part of one kingdom, one beautiful whole, with one caring Creator, who is faithful to us even in our stupidity and sin. God calls us to reconcile with God, one another, and creation, to defect from the false stories that divide and destroy us, and to join God in the healing of the world through love and the pursuit of justice and the common good.

— Brian McLaren, *Everything Must Change*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 282

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

*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 Majesty and Glory of Your Name”

Tom Fettke

O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of Your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God; little children praise You perfectly,
And so would we, and so would we. Alleluia!

Postlude

“God of Grace”

(CWM RHONDDA)
Paul Manz

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Ellen Deaver.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the Glory of God, as the Brassfield/Conaway family remembers their dear son, brother, and uncle, Eric Michael Brassfield, on this day, the 44th year of his birth. Happy Heavenly Birthday, Eric, with our loving memories. Kirk and Debbie Brassfield, Carmen, Erin, Alexandra, and Samuel Conaway.

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

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