



Seventh & James Baptist Church
September 24, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Solemn Melody”

H. Walford Davies

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

“O Worship the Lord”

Dale Grotenhuis

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Bow down before him, all the earth.
Ascribe to the Lord all honor and majesty;
Give God the glory due his name.
Strength and joy are in this place.

Processional Hymn, No. 337

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Litany of Mercy

Sharon Rollins

One: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your enduring love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin.

Many: Merciful God, expand our hearts to include more neighbors.

One: For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom in our secret hearts. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

Many: Merciful God, expand our hearts to include more neighbors.

One: Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

All: Merciful God, expand our hearts to include more neighbors. Then we will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners like us and with us will return to you. O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise to all of our neighbors, as we walk in your mercy and grace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Sharon Rollins

Old Testament Reading *Jonah 3:10-4:11* Carolyn Casey

Epistle Reading *Philippians 1:21-30* Derek Dodson

Hymn, No. 41 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Gospel Reading *Matthew 20:1-16* Erin Conaway

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People Erin Conaway

Offertory "Adagio from Sonata No. 1" 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 145:1-8

Daniel Farris

One: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Many: Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

One: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

Many: One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

One: On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

Many: The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

One: They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

All: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Anthem

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

arr. Kurt Kaiser

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Sermon

“Is It Right for You to Be Angry?”
(Jonah 3:10-4:11)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

There was a man, a good man, a holy man, and he lived in sin all through his life, because he couldn't bear the idea that any soul could suffer damnation. This man decided that if any soul was going to be damned, he would be damned too. He never took the sacraments, he never married his wife in church. I don't know, my child, but some people think he was – well, a saint. I think he died in what we are told is mortal sin – I'm not sure.... You can't conceive, my child, nor can I or anyone, the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God.

— Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 601

“O How I Love Jesus”
Choristers Hymn-of-the-Month

*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

“Depart Now”

Ed Wilson

Depart now and as you go remember
It's in the goodness of God that you were born into this world.
And by the mercy of God you have been kept all through the day,
And through the love of God seen in the face of Christ,
That you are being redeemed. Amen.

Postlude

“Toccatina in F Major”

Dietrich Buxtehude

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Donnie Balmos.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in celebration of Mary Ann Cook's 70th birthday (9/26/1953) from husband, Don.

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

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