



Seventh & James Baptist Church
October 8, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Organ Meditation

“This Is My Father’s World”

(TERRA BEATA)
Michael Burkhardt

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

“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. 246

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Litany of Belonging

Leslie Rosencrans

One: How will people know who we are? They will look not only to our actions but also to our organizations—they will want to know which tribe is ours and with whom we are co-laboring.

Many: Lord, give us clarity of vision and courage of heart.

One: Who are the people we call “our people?” Who claims us as their own? It is in community and the keeping of covenant where so much of our identity is located, but

we can easily give that away and think that our sports teams and grocery store memberships are the same or equal to the Body of Christ with whom we are grafted.

Many: Lord, forgive our casual hold on lifelines and our firm grip on misty trinkets.

One: We make a commitment to join a fellowship of believers, to walk down the public aisle and present our lives before this congregation—not as pristine and worthy of admiration, but as broken and in need of fellow travelers. We hear the words of covenant wash over our hearts, pledging to be the family of God for us in this place, and we know these are our people, and we are theirs—all of us bonded in brokenness and walking and living into our redemption through God’s Grace.

Many: Help us to nurture this fellowship, to celebrate our community, and to live ever deeper into the covenant of being church with one another.

One: For we do not always get it right, but we must not lose heart.

All: Help us as we try to live up to our promise to one another and our call to keep our doors open wide and our hearts mindful of the grace of home we find while we are a part of your church.

Prayer of Thanksgiving		Leslie Rosencrans
Old Testament Reading	<i>Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20</i>	Debbie Brassfield
Epistle Reading	<i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i>	Kirk Brassfield
Hymn, No. 71		“Be Thou My Vision”
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 21:33-46</i>	Scott Turner
	One: This is the Word of the Lord. Many: Thanks be to God.	
Prayers of God’s People		Scott Turner

Offertory

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

(CRUSADERS’ HYMN)
arr. Mark Hayes

Jim Williams, *piano*

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 19

Matt Rosencrans

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Many: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

Many: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

One: Which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Many: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

Many: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

One: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Many: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

One: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Many: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

One: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Anthem

“The Heavens Are Telling” from *The Creation*

Haydn

Rebecca Walsh, *soprano*

Edgar Sierra, *tenor*

Jonathan Moore, *bass*

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of His work displays the firmament.
The day that is coming speaks to the day, the night that is gone to following night.
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of His work displays the firmament.
In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of His work displays the firmament.

Sermon

“Evolving Faith”

Erin Conaway

(Philippians 3:4b-14)

Silent Reflection

Above all, we must take the shield of faith, and faith here is not so much believing this thing or that thing about God as it is hearing a voice that says, ‘Come unto me.’ We hear the voice, and then we start to go without really knowing what to believe either about the voice or about ourselves; and yet we go. Faith is standing in the darkness, and a hand is there, and we take it.

— Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 641

“Higher Ground”

*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

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Kurt Kaiser

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus;
You may have all this world, but give me Jesus.

Postlude

“Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare”

Benedetto Marcello

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Jim Williams.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in memory of Judge Bill Logue (January 22, 1924—October 12, 2005.)

The Rose on the Organ celebrates the birth of Katrina Aubrey Alcorn, born on October 1 to Sarah Alcorn. Great-grandparents are Suzanne and Lloyd Alcorn.

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

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