



Seventh & James Baptist Church
October 15, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Organ Meditation

“A Gaelic Improvisation”

(BUNESSAN)
Charles Callahan

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

“Hear My Prayer”

Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer,
In the mornin' when I rise.
It's Your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

Processional Hymn, No. 345

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Litany of Becoming

Jay Belew

One: The Psalmist tells us that the heavens declare the glory of the Lord and we think we can deduce a few other things about You by paying attention to Your creation: like the way You surprise us with growth.

Many: Creator God, creating still—knead our hearts to receive your Grace.

One: We watch a caterpillar inch its way across a plant, furiously devouring leaves for some reason it cannot quite discern. Then it curls up into a tiny cocoon and emerges a beautiful butterfly. We don't often think of worms as future flyers, but You do....

Many: Creator God, creating still—blossom in us a desire to share Your love.

One: Too often, we see a fragile egg and think only of the shell, and we cannot see the powerful alligator or the beautiful swan. We see a colt and only think of wobbly, wet legs, not a powerful steed, and we see ourselves in the mirror and only see timid, failing disciples rather than your children through whom You will accomplish wonders and reach the world!

Many: Creator God, creating still—give sight to our blind eyes that they may see with hope and forgiveness.

One: Help us to listen together to the name you are whispering in our midst and find the courage to walk into this right path for your namesake.

All: Help us to trust your creating hand to guide us and equip us for the journey.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jay Belew

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

Leslie Rosencrans

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Sean Sutcliffe

Hymn, No. 573

“It Is Well with My Soul”

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

Erin Conaway

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Erin Conaway

Offertory

“Elegie” Op. 150, No. 5

Josef Rheinberger

Kristin Mortenson, *violin*

Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

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 106:1-6, 19-23

Daniel Farris

One: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Many: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?

One: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

Many: Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them;

One: that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage.

Many: Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

One: They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image.

Many: They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.

One: They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

All: Therefore he said he would destroy them-- had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

Sermon

“Pondering...”
(*Philippians 4:1-9*)

Erin Conaway

Choral Reflection

“Think on These Things”

Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir, Handbell Choir

Kristin Mortenson, *violin*

Lydia Bratcher, *piano*

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest,
Whatsoever things are just and pure, lovely, of good repute.

If there be any virtue, if there be any praise;

If there be any virtue, think on these things.

And the God of peace shall be with you. Think on these things, Amen.

Silent Reflection

What’s the point of being Christian if you don’t also know that what God withholds in the way of protection, he more than supplies in the form of support. For the world breaks God’s heart, too. No pain our spirits endure, no weakness that impairs our bodies, no grief that bows us low fails to find its counterpart in God who, as we see, in Christ suffers with and for us. ‘He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber or sleep.’ Sometimes I think it’s God’s pain, not God’s peace, that passes all understanding. So come home to church, not for protection against all the travails of this earth, but rather for all the support that heaven alone can provide. Finally, come to leave. For we come to God’s house, to this open house, to find love and to defeat hate, in order that the world itself can become an open house.

— William Sloane Coffin, *Credo*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 592

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

*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

“Go Ye Now in Peace”

Joyce Elaine Eilers

Go ye now in peace, and know that the love of God will guide you.
Feel His presence here beside you showing you the way.
In your time of trouble, when hurt and despair are there to grieve you,
Know that the Lord will never leave you. He will bring you courage.
Know that the God who sent His Son to die that you might live
will never leave you lost and alone in His beloved world.
Go ye now in peace. Go ye now in peace.

Postlude

“Go Forth with Joy!”

Gwyneth Walker

Today at Seventh

Adult Handbell Choir

Rosalie Beck

Donna Kennedy

Ann Sims

Sonia Belew

Missy Kittner

Carolien Tantra

Linda Hynan

Ann McGlashan

Patricia Wilson

Pat Hynan

Bryce Shelton

Our Pianist today is David DeLoach.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in honor of Ava Farris' 12th birthday.

The Rose on the Organ celebrates the birth of Isla Ruth Hutchison, born September 15. Grandparents are Monica and Donovan McNeil. Great-grandparents are Sharon & Dan McNeil.

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

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