



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**November 12, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Many: Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.**

One: Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!” turn back because of their shame. Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”

**All: But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Betsy Vardaman

**Reading from the Revelation**

*Amos 5:18-24*

Sean Sutcliffe

**Epistle Reading**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Linda McManness

**Hymn, No. 463**

“From Every Race, from Every Clime”

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 25:1-13*

Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People**

Daniel Farris

**Offertory**

“Prière à Notre-Dame”

Leon Boëllmann

*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**

Tammie Hartgroves

*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.**

## Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.  
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this, our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower; sun and moon and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this, our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love: brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this, our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this, our joyful hymn of praise.

## Sermon

“Dissolve the Divided Life”  
*(Amos 5:18-24)*

Erin Conaway

## Communion

*All communion bread is gluten-free.*

*Please come forward to receive Communion from any 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 on the right side of your aisle and return up the left side 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

Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight or flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free.

— Shane Claiborne, *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 689

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

*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

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Robert H. Young

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.

## Postlude

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(DIX)  
Anna Laura Page

## **Today at Seventh**

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

**Our Pianist today** is Carolien Tantra.

**The Rose on the Organ** celebrates the birth Louise Jolley Christman, born November 5 to Rebecca Ward and Sarah Christman. Grandparents are Janis and Robert Ward.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given by Mary Ann & Don Cook in honor of Matt & Leslie for all they do for our church family.

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

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