



Seventh & James Baptist Church
November 26, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Reign of Christ

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Fanfare to Christ the King”

(CHRISTUS REX,
David McK. Williams)
Charles Callahan

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

“Psalm 100”

Euell Porter

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: Come into His presence with singing.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Processional Hymn, No. 340

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Litany of Power

Joy Marshall

One: Almighty and loving God, you created the ocean depths; you made the mountains rise; you spangled the sky with stars.

Many: We praise your majestic power revealed in all creation.

One: When the earth trembles and our hearts shake with fear, we look for a steady place to stand. That’s when we yearn for your gentle power to come to us, in ways that speak

comfort and peace to our very human hearts. In the midst of all that changes, we look for a love that endures.

All: So God, pour your holy power on each one here in ways that reveal your quiet strength, your hopeful presence, your faithful love.

— adapted from Sharlande Sledge, *Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Seasons*, p. 116

Prayer of Thanksgiving Joy Marshall

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24* Sharon Rollins

Epistle Reading *Ephesians 1:15-23* Carolyn Casey

Hymn, No. 424 “At the Name of Jesus”

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:31-46* Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People Scott Turner

Offertory “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (ST. COLUMBA)
Wilbur Held

During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God’s call.

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 95:1-7a

Daniel Farris

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Many: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

One: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Many: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

One: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Anthem

“My Eternal King”

Jane Marshall

My God, I love Thee; Not because I hope for heav'n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally.
Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
For me didst bear the nail, and spear, and manifold disgrace;
Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heav'n, or of escaping hell;
Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever loving Lord!
E'en so I love Thee and will love, and in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God, And my Eternal King.

Sermon

“The Work of Christmas”
(Matthew 25:31-46)

Matt Rosencrans

Silent Reflection

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

— Howard Thurman, *The Work of Christmas*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 215

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

*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

Matt Rosencrans

Choral Benediction

“At the Name of Jesus”

Cindy Barry

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow in heaven and in earth.
That every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Postlude

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

(DIADEMATA)
Jerry Westenkuehler

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Ellen Deaver.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in appreciation of the School Uniform Ministry volunteers and people who donate.

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

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