



Seventh & James Baptist Church
January 21, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Seventh & James Baptist Church
January 21, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“God Himself Is Present”

(WONDERBARER KÖNIG)
Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Call to Worship

Matt 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

“Lead Me, Lord, in Thy Righteousness”

Samuel Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness; make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety. Amen.

Processional Hymn, No. 477

“We Are Called to Be God’s People”

Litany of Following

Scott Turner

One: As we gather safely and calmly this morning, we know that our world is engulfed in chaos and that so many of our sisters and brothers are raising their voices and gathering their strength and courage to try to gain freedoms we have known our entire lives.

Many: Bring your peace to everyone in the world...

One: Leaders scramble to maintain their grip on power; crowds swell and cry out for their voices to be heard; we clamor after the next trinket and hurry to get to the next

step; some suffer in silence while others battle their addictions in the media and all of us are asking in direct and indirect ways: whom will we follow? Who has the right to lead us?

Many: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism—inscribe it into our hearts, O God.

One: You Created all that is from nothing; You have been faithful in the midst of our adulteries; You sent Your Son to live among us, and we killed Him; You sent Your Spirit who comforts us, cries out on our behalf, and blows against us and in us to lead us down the right path for Your name's sake.

All: Renew our hearts again to follow Your Spirit, trusting in the gifts You have lavished upon us, seeing with eternal perspective, and loving one another as if we could never lose.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Scott Turner

Old Testament Reading *Jonah 3:1-5, 10* Cindy Jones

Epistle Reading *1 Corinthians 7:29-31* Brad Jones

Hymn, No. 473 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

Gospel Reading *Mark 1:14-20* Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People Leslie Rosencrans

Offertory “It Is Well with My Soul” (VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss)
arr. David Schwoebel

Donnie Balmos, *piano*
Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

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 62:5-12

Matt Rosencrans

One: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

Many: He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

One: On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Many: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

One: Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Many: Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

One: Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

All: And steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

Anthem

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour Thy pow'r;
Crown Thine ancient Church's story, bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to work and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for Thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore,
Serving Thee whom we adore.

(Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing.)

Set our feet on lofty places, gird our lives that we may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not man nor Thee,
That we fail not man nor Thee.

Sermon

“The Kingdom of God Is at Hand...”
(Mark 1:14-20)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

What was far from us has become, by the mediation of a man, very near.
He is the God in whom you shall dwell.
He is the man by way of whom you must reach him.
Christ is at once the way you must follow and the goal you must reach.

— Augustine of Hippo, 354-430

Hymn of Commitment, No. 476

“You Walk Along Our Shoreline”

*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

“Here I Am, Lord”

Daniel L. Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright!
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

Postlude“Fanfare on *AUSTRIAN HYMN*”

Gordon Young

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Donnie Balmos.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Sharon & Marc Fowler in honor of Seventh & James members who have welcomed us as new members.

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

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