



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**January 28, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**            “Now All the Woods Are Sleeping” BWV 756            J.S. Bach

**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**            “Seek the Lord”            Dale Grotenhuis  
Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

**Processional Hymn, No. 307**            “All Creatures of Our God and King”

**Litany of Community**            Lee Carter

One: As we gather together this morning, we are tempted to view our presence here in Your Sanctuary as something good that we have done: another star in our crown or an ‘A’ in spirituality. We can forget that You built this place through the faithfulness of the saints who came before us.

**Many: Lord, help us to remember the long line of community in which we stand.**

One: We are also tempted to either believe that we have nothing to offer or that our role here is only to help others who are less fortunate in any number of ways.

**Many: Ignite in our hearts the desire to give and receive by Your Grace.**

One: As we feel the blessing of our past and the faith of those who have been here before us, as we remember the joy we have shared as we gave to others and the blessings we have known as we received from others, let us remember that we are a body of believers—bound together in your Love and Mercy.

**All: Help us to treasure the different gifts we bring to this body, knowing that they are from you, to be used by you as you redeem the world. Draw us closer to one another and closer still to you, Our God and King.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** Lee Carter

**Old Testament Reading** *Deuteronomy 18:15-20* Julie Carter

**Epistle Reading** *1 Corinthians 8:1-13* Linda McManness

**Hymn, No. 264** “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

**Gospel Reading** *Mark 1:21-28* Erin Conaway

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

**Prayers of God’s People** Erin Conaway

**Offertory** “Meditation on *Ubi Caritas*”  
(Where Abideth  
Charity and Love)  
Charles Callahan

*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 111

Matt Rosencrans

One: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**Many: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.**

One: Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**Many: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

One: He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**Many: He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

One: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

**Many: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

One: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

**All: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.**

## Anthem

“Ubi Caritas”

Paul Basler

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
(where there is charity and love, God is there)

Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
(The love of Christ has gathered us together)

Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.  
(Let us rejoice and be glad in it)

Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
(Let us revere and love the living God)

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.  
(And from a sincere heart let us love one another)

## Sermon

“Be Curious, Not Judgmental”  
*(1 Corinthians 8:1-13)*

Erin Conaway

## Silent Reflection

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We would like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet, it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time.

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 71

“Be Thou My Vision”

*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.

## Staff Recognition

## Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

**Choral Benediction**

“The Grace of Our Lord Jesus  
Christ Be Upon You”

Herbert Colvin

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you;  
The love of God, the Father, be with you;  
And the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be yours,  
Now and evermore. Amen.

**Postlude**

“Festival Alleluia”

(LASST UNS ERFREUEN)  
Dan Miller

## Today at Seventh

**Our Pianist today** is Jim Williams.

**The Rose on the Organ** celebrates the birth of Sawyer Biondi. Great-aunt and Great-uncle are Marcia and David Whitten.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given in memory of John McLane, nephew of Marcia and David Whitten.

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

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