



Seventh & James Baptist Church
February 18, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday in Lent

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

(DEO GRACIAS)
Charles Callahan

Welcome and Call to Worship

Matt Rosencrans

One: Child of God, you are welcome here...

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: Over and over again, Jesus tried to tell his disciples and followers who he was and what it meant to follow him.

Many: Take up your cross and follow.

One: Follow him to Jerusalem and be ready for the unexpected turn of events he kept telling us would happen.

All: Even today, we confess it is difficult to follow Jesus down this road. We say with the desperate father, “Lord, we believe! Help our unbelief!”

Choral Summons

“Come, Dove Divine”

Timothy R. McKinney

Come, come, Dove divine, let Your presence on us shine,
Come down, come now, fill us with Your light.

Processional Hymn, No. 415

“Lift High the Cross”

Litany of Lenten Travels

Leslie Rosencrans

One: The journey is never longer than when we take the first step, and as we gaze down this road to the cross on which we must travel this Lenten season, we ask, O God, for you to give us courage and strength for this journey.

Many: Help us move closer to the cross and the enormity of your Love.

One: It is not without a great deal of inner resistance that we assume a penitent posture. Everything in our world beckons us to gather, to conquer, to keep, to take; we

know these things are fleeting so we want more for when they run out, but you call us to set a few of them aside just for a season, to taste and see that You are good and that You provide for us.

Many: Help us to let go and take up all that will get our attention and focus our hearts on You.

One: We set our faces toward Jerusalem and the journey you took to get there. Help us to travel deeply and to abandon the fear that would prevent us from clearing out a kneeling place in our hearts and in our lives. Guide us along this path, for you know it intimately and have the scars to prove it.

All: Help us to see the way, to overcome our fear, and to walk with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leslie Rosencrans

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

David Dwi Chrisna

Epistle Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Dillan Damping

Hymn, No. 169

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:31-38

Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Daniel Farris

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

“I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ”
(Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ) BWV 639

J.S. Bach

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

(sung to O WALY, WALY, tune of “When Love Is Found,” No. 524)

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.

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 22:23-31

Scott Turner

One: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

Many: For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

One: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

Many: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

One: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

Many: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

One: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**All: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

Anthem

“We Walk by Faith”

Jan Sanborn

We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might.
For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.
Sometimes trials come our way. We don't know what to do or say.
But we know God will make a way if we will trust and obey.
We trust in God and in His Son. What God has promised will be done.
And as each journey is begun, His Holy Spirit makes us one.
We may not fully understand, but we are guided by His hand.
And as we follow faith's command, God leads us to the promised land.

Sermon

“Get Behind Me”

Kent McKeever

(Mark 8:31-38)

Silent Reflection

Those of us who stand outside the circle of this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been forged in the crucibles of difference—those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older—know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to stand alone, unpopular and sometimes reviled, and how to make common cause with those others identified as outside the structures in order to define and seek a world in which we can all flourish. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change.

— Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 491

“Wherever He Leads I'll Go”

*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

Scott Turner

One: Every step closer to Holy Week brings us that much closer to the darkness.

Many: Give us courage to walk this path with you.

One: We know even as the light grows dim, there is an increasing brightness behind the shadows.

Many: Fellow bearers of light...let us walk out together in hope and joy.

One: Go out into the world ready to receive unexpected grace and live into the high calling of Christ's sacrificial love.

Choral Benediction

"The Servant Song"

arr. David Schwoebel

We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Postlude

"Toccata in E Minor"

Johann Pachelbel

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Tommy Edds.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Rachel Farris.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in honor of Dann Walker's birthday from the church family. We are so grateful for his humor, laughter, and friendship that brighten our day.

The Foyer Flowers are given by Jerry Lewis in memory of Rita & Jim Purdy for their longtime loyalty and service to Seventh & James Baptist Church.