



Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 3, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation “Our Father, Who Art in Heaven” (BWV 737) J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship Scott Turner

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 “Jesus Loves Me” William B. Bradbury

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells me so.

Processional Hymn, No. 425 “How Firm a Foundation”

Litany of Learning from Children Matt Rosencrans

One: Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me...” and he gathered them around and hugged them as he taught the grown-ups how to love God and love each other.

Many: Lord, help us to always welcome children into our lives.

One: When you aren’t afraid of what other people think, you can sometimes see things that hide underneath the rocks of popularity. Most of the time, the things you see in

those shadows are God’s surprises just waiting to jump out and make us squeal with delight.

Many: Lord, help us to see with the eyes of trusting children.

One: Life can be hard. We fall down. We don’t understand. We aren’t tall enough to reach or strong enough to open. We don’t know whom to trust. Then we remember that we are loved, and our warmed hearts turn to you, and in wonder and love, they turn to one another.

All: Lord, help us to love you completely: mind, body, and soul. We worship every week because it helps form us into worshipping people. Just like we practice softball, piano, and spelling, we need to practice worshipping God so we can keep getting better and better at it until we get to do it together in heaven.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Matt Rosencrans

Old Testament Reading *Micah 6:6-8* Stan Wilkes

Epistle Reading *1 Corinthians 1:18-25* Carolyn Wilkes

Hymn, No. 650 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

Gospel Reading *Mark 9:30-37* Erin Conaway

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People Erin Conaway

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

“À Chloris”

Reynaldo Hahn (1874 -1947)

Eury Alvarez, *oboe*
Lydia Bratcher, *piano*

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 19

Daniel Farris

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Many: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

Many: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

One: Which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Many: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

Many: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

One: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Many: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

One: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Many: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

One: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Anthem

“I Will Be a Child of Peace”

Elaine Hagenberg

O Holy Father, I will be a child of peace and purity
For well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

Sermon

“Welcomes One Such Child...”

Erin Conaway

(Mark 9:30-37)

Silent Reflection

A look at life through a child’s eyes
Is pure and honest; without disguise
A life of joy and wonder and grace
But here we are running in place.

— written by ShowYouLove on hellopoetry.com

Hymn of Commitment, No. 660

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

*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

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

"If Thou Would Suffer God to Guide Thee" (BWV 642)

J.S. Bach

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is David DeLoach

The Artwork on the Cover is by Rachel Farris.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in honor of Lillian Claire Lowe on her 18th birthday.
Colossians 1:9-14

The Foyer Flowers are given in loving memory of Bob Jones by Robin, Russell, and Elizabeth Edgerton; and Jan, Greg, Heather, Haley, and Jeffrey Brown.