



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**April 28, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**

“Land of Rest”

arr. Karen Thompson

ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR

**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**

“Surely the Lord Is in This Place”

Herbert Colvin

Surely the Lord is in this place.  
This is none other than the House of God,  
And this is the Gate of Heaven.  
Surely the Lord is in this place.

**Processional Hymn, No. 366**

“O God Beyond All Praising”

**Litany of Love Excelling**

Tammie Hartgroves

One: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

**Many: “Love Divine all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.”**

One: God's love was revealed to us in this way: God sent his only son into the world.

**Many: “Joy of heaven to earth come down.”**

One: So that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**Many: “Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown,”**

One: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

**All: “Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.”**

— quotes from Hymn No. 281, texts from 1 John 4:9 & John 3:16

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Tammie Hartgroves

**Meditation**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

arr. Karen Thompson

ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR

**Reading from the Acts**

*Acts 8:26-40*

Sean Sutcliffe

**Epistle Reading**

*1 John 4:7-21*

Meg Cullar

**Hymn, No. 365**

“More Love to Thee, O Christ”

**Gospel Reading**

*John 15:1-8*

Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People**

Matt Rosencrans

**Offertory**

“Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness”

(SCHMÜCKE DICH)

Wayne L. Wold

*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 LASST UNS ERFREUEN, tune of "All Creature of Our God and King," No. 307)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## 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 22:25-31

Scott Turner

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

"My Song in the Night"

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,  
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.  
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,  
My comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, a stranger from Thee,  
Or cry in the desert, Thy face to see?  
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,  
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

**Sermon**

“Love Not Fear”  
*(1 John 4:7-21)*

Erin Conaway

**Silent Reflection**

Love is the nature of the soul. When we love and allow ourselves to be loved, we begin more and more to inhabit the kingdom of the eternal. Fear changes into courage, emptiness becomes plentitude, and distance becomes intimacy.

— John O’Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*, p. 9

**Hymn of Commitment, No. 581**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

*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 Response**

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, and be gracious;  
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

**Postlude**

“Sing Praise to God”

(MIT FREUDEN ZART)  
Paul Laubengayer

# Today at Seventh

## Adult Handbell Choir

Rosalie Beck  
Linda Hynan  
Missy Kittner

Ann McGlashan  
Bryce Shelton  
Ann Sims

Carolien Tantra  
Patricia Wilson

**Our Pianist today** is Tommy Edds.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given in honor of Lise Uhl and Tommy Edds on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary. We are proud of you, and we love you! Jason & Angela.

**The Foyer Flowers** are given in loving memory of Lydia Bratcher's mother, Nancy Ratchford's birthday, April 28.

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

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