



Seventh & James Baptist Church
May 5, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Seventh & James Baptist Church
May 5, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

(TRURO)

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

“If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-85)

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
That he may bide with you forever, ev’n the spirit of truth.

Processional Hymn, No. 345

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Litany of Community

Bill Cooper

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

Bill Cooper

Meditation

“Every Day and Night the Lord Is With Me”

Hal H. Hopson

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*

Ev’ry day and night the Lord is with me,
Ever guiding, showing me the way.
When the days are long, when I’m not so strong,
God will be my song.

Sometimes I feel alone and friendless,
Sometimes I lose my way and fall,
Then I remember Jesus,
Who held the children in His arms and blest them.
He loves all His children; He cares for you and me.

Sometimes the night is dark around me,
Sometimes I cannot see the light,
Then I remember Jesus,
Who held the children in His arms and blest them.
He loves all His children; He cares for you and me.

Ev’ry day and night the Lord is with me,
Ever guiding, showing me the way.
When the days are long, when I’m not so strong,
God will be my song.

Reading from the Acts

Acts 10:44-48

Sharon Rollins

Epistle Reading *1 John 5:1-6* CJ McKeever

Hymn, No. 440 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Gospel Reading *John 15:9-17* Scott Turner

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

Prayers of God’s People Scott Turner

Offertory “The Child in Each of Us” (medley) arr. Marilyn Ham

Carolien Tantra, *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 LASST UNS ERFREUEN, tune of “All Creatures 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 98 Daniel Farris

One: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

Many: The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

One: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Many: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

One: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

Many: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

All: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Anthem

“Ebenezer”

Heather Sorenson

There’s a place of sacred memory, there’s a stone that bears my name
On an altar in a wasteland with a promise I can claim.
There’s a field of broken arrows, once my battleground of shame.
It’s a place I go to visit, but a place I’ll never stay.
Here I raise my Ebenezer. Here by heaven’s grace I’ve come
To this landmark of redemption where healing has begun.
Here I build this sacred altar as a tribute of Your might.
May this shrine now be my fortress, and this pillar be my light.
There’s a place that to the others looks like nothing more than loss.
But this field of stone and rubble is the place I find my cross.
Here I raise my Ebenezer. Here by heaven’s grace I’ve come
To this landmark of redemption where healing has begun.
Here I kneel, my heart surrendered, at this wall of sacred stones.
Here I lay down every idol, and the fear of the unknown.
There’s a landmark of redemption, there’s a pillar of Your grace
Where I kneel and I remember salvation in this place.

Sermon

“What Are You Doing?”
(John 15:9-17)

Joshua Stewart

Silent Reflection

No matter how unaware we may be of the reality of our connectedness in Christ, we affect one another, for good or evil. Whatever our inclinations, outside of gross heresy, there is no biblical basis that would allow us to disengage from one another or disregard our need for one another. Paul describes our connectedness in this way: “If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body” (1 Cor. 12:15 NIV).

Unless *all* the various parts that God designed to make up the whole are intact and functioning, there is dysfunction. Each and every part must be connected and engaged, or there is no possible way for the whole to function fully and according to God’s design and best plan.

— Richard Twiss, *One Church, Many Tribes*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 295

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*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

Joshua Stewart

Choral Response

“Shine Your Light”

Terry D. Taylor

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*

You are the light of the world. You are the light of the world.
Just like a city that’s built on a hill, you are the light of the world.

Shine, shine, shine your light. Let others see God’s love.
Shine, shine, shine your light, that all may praise our God.

You are the light of the world. You are the light of the world.
Just like a lamp shining all through the house, you are the light of the world.

Shine, shine, shine your light. Let others see God's love.
Shine, shine, shine your light, that all may praise our God.

Postlude

“Jesus Shall Reign”

(DUKE ST.)
arr. Herbert Colvin

Today at Seventh

Choristers

Dillan Damping
Ava Farris
Sefton Farris
Robin Land

Audrey Ludwig
Ezriela Martinez
Keziah Martinez
Comfort Michael

Avery Poehls
Julianna Rios
Wesley Zuniga

Our Pianist today is Carolien Tantra.

The Rose on the Organ celebrates the birth of Wren Ivy Mortenson-Matlick, born April 26. Grandparents are Kristin & Gary Mortenson. Great-grandmother is Doris Mortenson.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Jo-Ann Tsang in celebration of Ian Bailey's 17th birthday.

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

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