



Seventh & James Baptist Church
May 26, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Fantasia on OLD HUNDREDTH”

Gordon Young

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

“God So Loved the World”

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
That whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
God so loved the world.

Processional Hymn, No. 1

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Litany of Grace and Peace

Doris DeLoach

One: Faithful and loving God, we bring our fragmented lives into the presence of your wholeness. We bring our wandering thoughts into your eternal light. We bring our restless spirits into the calming strength of your grace.

Many: Help us to eat the bread of grace and drink from the cup of peace.

One: We give you thanks because even in moments of great anxiety when the threads of our lives are hanging loose, chaotic, and disconnected, we can be confident that you are with us.

Many: Help us to share this bounty of grace and peace with each other.

One: We're too busy to stop, hurling ourselves through life, weary from holding up our heavy burdens. We confess...and we confess again...we have labored under the assumption that the way to find rest for our souls is to finish our list of things to do and present it to you like a book.

Many: Forgive our compulsiveness and our forgetfulness about your grace.

One: O God, remind us that we do not and cannot go it alone. When we look down the road we see Jesus, waiting to heave the weight of our burdens onto His shoulders.

All: Let us feel the freedom of lifted burdens by your grace and may we rest in your peace.

— adapted from *Prayers and Litanies for the Christian Seasons*
by Sharlande Sledge, p. 104

Prayer of Thanksgiving		Doris DeLoach
Old Testament Reading	<i>Isaiah 6:1-8</i>	Sean Sutcliffe
Epistle Reading	<i>Romans 8:12-17</i>	David DeLoach
Hymn, No. 6		“Creator God, Creating Still”
Gospel Reading	<i>John 3:1-17</i>	Erin Conaway
	One: This is the Word of the Lord. Many: Thanks be to God.	
Prayers of God’s People		Erin Conaway
Offertory	“Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist” (Now We Pray to the Holy Spirit)	Dietrich Buxtehude

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 29

Scott Turner

One: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Many: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

Many: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

One: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

Many: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

One: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Many: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

One: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Anthem

"Instrument of Grace"

Joseph M. Martin

Let the word of Christ dwell richly now within you.
Teaching one another with psalms, teaching one another with your hymns of praise.

Let your life be music; an instrument of grace. Let the word of Christ now dwell in you.
Clothe yourself with love and humility; fill your heart with peace and with charity.
In every word give thanks to God; with every deed give praise to God;
With every song glorify the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father.
Let your every song give thanks. Let every alleluia give God glory, honor, and praise.
Let the word of Christ dwell richly now within you.
Teaching one another with psalms, teaching one another with your hymns of praise.
Let your life be glorious music; an instrument of grace.

Sermon

“Living Our Story”
(Isaiah 6:1-8)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.

— Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 483

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”

*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

“Depart Now”

Ed Wilson

Depart now and as you go remember
It’s in the goodness of God that you were born into this world.

And by the mercy of God you have been kept all through the day,
And through the love of God seen in the face of Christ,
That you are being redeemed. Amen.

Postlude

“Festival Piece on NICAEA”

Jerry Westenkuehler

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Jim Williams.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given “in gratitude to the Seventh & James family for the love, support, and opportunities for growth on many occasions since before Pastor Eubank officiated our marriage in 1969 to this day.”— Sharon & Dan McNeil

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

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