



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
June 16, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Prelude on ST. CATHERINE”

Henri F. Hemy
setting by Gordon Young

Welcome and Call to Worship

Erin Conaway

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

“Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord”
(from *Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee;
He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand.
Thy mercy, Lord, is great and far above the heavens:
Let none be made ashamed that wait upon thee. Amen.

Processional Hymn, No. 340

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Litany of Moving Beyond

Jim Kennedy

One: Holy God who calls the worlds into being, who calls us into Christ’s church:

Many: We thank you for the church that is our true home, for the mission of the church that is our true joy, and for the ministry of the church that is our proper task.

One: We thank you for the many ways of ministry that are faithfully practiced in praise of you out beyond our range of acceptance:

Many: For those more radical than us, for those more cautious than us, for those in traditions strange to us, and for faith families who care in ways other than our own, we give you thanks.

One: We pray your mighty Spirit upon us:

Many: That we may more fully engage our baptism.

One: That we may accept the costs that belong to our life with you.

Many: That we may embrace the joys that only you can give.

One: Move us beyond ourselves,

Many: Beyond our favorite clichés,

One: Beyond our tired resentments,

Many: Beyond our worn habits,

One: To your newness.

All: Make us light, make us ready, make us open, that we may become the holy ones you created and are calling us to be.

— adapted from Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*, pgs. 106-7

Prayer of Thanksgiving Jim Kennedy

Old Testament Reading *1 Samuel 15:34-16:7* Donna Kennedy

Epistle Reading *2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17* Carolyn Casey

Hymn, No. 634 “We Walk by Faith”

Gospel Reading *Mark 4:26-34* Matt Rosencrans

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

Prayers of God’s People Matt Rosencrans

Offertory

“We Walk by Faith”

(DUNLAP’S CREEK,
early American hymn tune)
setting by James Biery

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 20

Scott Turner

One: The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Many: May he send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from Zion.

One: May he remember all your offerings, and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.

Many: May he grant you your heart’s desire, and fulfill all your plans.

One: May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

Many: Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand.

One: Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.

All: They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright. Give victory to the king, O Lord; answer us when we call.

Anthem

“Fix Our Eyes”

Heather Sorenson

We run this race to win a crown.
We lay aside the things that weigh us down.
We will fix our eyes on You.
The cheers of those gone on before,
We hear them calling out from heaven's shore
To only fix our eyes on You.
If all the world rise up in hate, holiness they desecrate,
Fix our eyes on You, O Jesus.
You are the author, completer of our faith.
Surrounded by these witnesses who hold us to the truth,
O Lord, we fix our eyes on You.
When all has changed from what we knew,
If mountains shake and ancient landmarks move,
We will fix our eyes on You.
If things unheard of come to pass,
The wrong gets strong and then the good collapse,
Our faith in You will hold us fast.
If evil makes a new debut, folly has become what's true,
Fix our eyes on You, O Jesus.
You are the author, completer of our faith.
Surrounded by these witnesses who hold us to the truth,
O Lord, we fix our eyes on You.
We see you in the distance! We run without retreat,
And every trophy, every prize, we lay them at Your feet.
Fix our eyes on You, O Jesus.
You are the author, completer of our faith.
Surrounded by these witnesses who hold us to the truth,
O Lord, we fix our eyes on You.

Sermon

“Embrace the Mystery” *(Mark 4:26-34)*

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lake-side, He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: ‘Follow thou me!’ and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the

toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.

— Albert Schweitzer

Hymn of Commitment, No. 376

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

*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

“Peace I Leave with You”

David W. Music

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you:
Not as the world giveth, give I to you. Amen.

Postlude

“Paeon”

Gordon Young

Today at Seventh

On Guest Conductor today is Donnie Balmos.

Our Pianist today is Tommy Edds.

The Rose on the Organ celebrates the birth of Lucy Ruth Henthorne, born June 10, to Landry and Colin Henthorne. Grandfather is Jason Walker and Great-Grandparents are Beverly and Dann Walker.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Carolyn Casey to celebrate summer birthdays in all of our families.

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

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