



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
July 14, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Seventh & James Baptist Church
July 14, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Tell Me the Old, Old Story”

(W. H. Doane)

arr. Kurt Kaiser and Herbert Colvin

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.

Summons

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Richard Willis

Music Camp Choir & Congregation

(Music Camp Choir)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

(Congregation)

All ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

Gathering Hymn, No. 607

“I Will Sing the Wondrous Story”

Litany of What God is Like

David Morgan

One: What is God like? That's a very big question, one that people from all around the world have wondered about since the beginning of time. And while nobody has seen all of God (because God is far too big for any of us to fully see), we can know what God is like.

Many: God is like an eagle, sharp-eyed and swift, with wings so wide you can play under their shadows.

One: God is like the stars, forever present and bright. Even when they feel far away, you can always look up and see them winking at you.

Many: God is like a shepherd, brave and good, a protector who loves her sheep so much that she watches over all of them and knows each of their names by heart.

One: God is like three dancers, graceful and precise. They move to the same music in very different ways, showcasing all of God's elegance and rhythm in your life.

Many: God is kind. God is forgiving. God is slow to get angry. God is quick to be glad. God is happy when you tell the truth and sad when things are unfair.

One: What is God like? Keep searching. Keep wondering. Keep learning about God.

All: And whenever you aren't sure what God is like, think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel brave, and what makes you feel loved. That's what God is like.

— adapted from *What is God Like?*
Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner

Prayer of Thanksgiving

David Morgan

Old Testament Reading

Amos 7:7-15

John Wood

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ashley Cruseturner

Hymn, No. 129

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Erin Conaway

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Erin Conaway

Offertory

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

arr. Mark Hayes

Donnie Balmos, *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, 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 85:8-13

Scott Turner

One: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Many: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

One: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Many: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

One: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

All: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Anthem

“Shine the Light”

Kim Ingram and Joe Milton

Music Camp Choir & Congregation

It's not about our glory, it's not about our fame;
The only thing we want is for the world to know his name!
This baby boy named Jesus has been sent to save the earth;
There will never be a story more amazing than the Savior's birth.

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

(Congregation)

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Share the light of Bethlehem! We're part of the Christmas story!
Share the light of Bethlehem! We're a witness to God's glory!
Tales of blessings, miracles on Christmas night!
Tell the story; share the good news, shine the light!
Shine the light of Jesus Christ! Shine the light!

Sermon

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”
(Ephesians 1:3-14)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

Where refugees seek deliverance that never comes,
And the heart consumes itself, if it would live,
Where little children age before their time,
And life wears down the edges of the mind,

Where the old man sits with mind grown cold,
While bones and sinew, blood and cell, go slowly down to death,
Where fear companions each day's life, And Perfect Love seems long delayed.
Christmas is waiting to be born:
In you,
in me,
in all of humankind.

— Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Hymn of Commitment, No. 427

“We’ve a Story to Tell”

*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

Postlude

“Toccata”

Gordon Young

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Donnie Balmos.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Don & Mary Ann Cook in celebration and thanks to Paula Hoover and all the volunteers and staff who helped make Children’s Music Camp a wonderful success.

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

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