



Seventh & James Baptist Church
August 18, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” (HOLY MANNA)
arr. Joyce Jones

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 “Lead Me, Lord, in Thy Righteousness” Samuel Wesley
Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness; make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety. Amen.

Processional Hymn, No. 217 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Litany of Commitment Annette Lindsey

One: Create in each of us a kneeling place, where we may empty ourselves of our self-importance and become vulnerable to Your Word to us.

Many: Forgive our busyness and help us to rest in You.

One: Help us to set our faces firmly against friendly suggestions for safe, expedient lives and toward the risk of discipleship. Loosen our grip on certainties that smother possibilities.

Many: Forgive our resistance to change.

One: Let us pursue the adventure of losing our lives in order to find them in You.
Guide us to follow the way of the cross where despair is transformed by the promise of
new life and where we are compelled to intercede for those who have more pain in their
lives than hope.

Many: Forgive us for dreams that are too small.

One: When we are too eager to be “better than...,” when we are too rushed to care...,
when we are too tired to bother..., when we are too preoccupied to listen..., when we
are too quick to act from motives other than compassion...,

**All: Transform us, hold our feet in the fire of your Emmanuel grace, so we can
see our actions in the light of Your costly love.... Amen.**

— adapted from Sharlande Sledge, *Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Seasons*, p. 48

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Annette Lindsey

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

Julie Carter

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

Lee Carter

Hymn, No. 35

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

Gospel Reading

John 6:51-58

Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Daniel Farris

Offertory

“Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed”

(ARFON,
Welsh Hymn Tune)
Austin Lovelace

*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 34:9-14

Scott Turner

One: O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

Many: The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

One: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Many: Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good?

One: Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

All: Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Anthem

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God!

Sermon

“Shiny Object Syndrome”
(John 6:51-58)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

It usually happens slowly as we recognize unfulfilled dreams and as we gradually face our own impotence and the ‘sin of the world’ (John 1:29). We are forced to let go of images: images that we built in our youth, images that solidified and energized our

own self-image. The crash of images is experienced as a death of the spirit, as a loss of hope, as a darkness almost too much to bear. Many, if not most, become tired and cynical while maintaining the old words that have become clichés even to themselves.

Spiritual growth is the willing surrender of images in favor of the True Images. It is a conversion that never stops, a surrender that never ceases. It is a surrender of self-serving and self-created images of self, of others, of God. Those who worship the images instead of living the reality simply stop growing spiritually.

— Richard Rohr

Hymn of Commitment, No. 633

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

*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.

Staff Recognition

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Benediction

“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

“Cortege”

Gordon Young

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Tommy Edds.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in memory of Tom Newsom and in honor of Jane Newsom from the Seventh & James Meals on Wheels Ministry. Thanks be to God for Tom and Jane and for the love, care, time, friendship, and nourishment they shared with our Meals on Wheels recipients.

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

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