



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
September 1, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation “Blessed Jesus, We Are Here” (BWV 731) J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship Scott Turner

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 “O Love of God Most Full” John Purifoy

O love of God most full, O love of God most free,
Come warm my heart, come fill my soul, come lead me unto thee. Amen.

Processional Hymn, No. 307 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Litany of Singing Joshua Stewart

One: We are people who must sing to you for the sake of our very lives.

Many: God, may you give us faith to sing always.

One: You are a God who must be sung to by us for the sake of your majesty and honor.

Many: God, may you give us faith to sing always.

One: And so we thank you for lyrics that push us past our reasons, for melodies that break open our givens.

Many: God, may you give us faith to sing always.

One: We also thank you for cadences that locate us home, beyond all our safe places, and for tones and tunes that open our lives beyond control and our futures beyond despair.

Many: God, may you give us faith to sing always.

One: We thank you for the long parade of mothers and fathers who have sung to you deep and true, and we thank you for the good company of artists, poets, musicians, cantors, and instruments that sing for us and with us to you.

All: We are witnesses to your mercy and splendor; by your grace we will not keep silent...ever again, Amen.

— adapted from Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*, p. 133 and Hymn No. 309 “When in Our Music, God Is Glorified”

Prayer of Thanksgiving Joshua Stewart

Old Testament Reading *Song of Solomon 2:8-13* Mark Brickhouse

Epistle Reading *James 1:17-27* Nancy Brickhouse

Hymn, No. 48 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Gospel Reading *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23* Erin Conaway

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

Prayers of God’s People Erin Conaway

Offertory “Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring” J.S. Bach
(Chorale from *Cantata 147*)
Jim Williams, *piano*
Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

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

(Choristers Hymn-of-the-Month for September)

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 45:1-2, 6-9

Matt Rosencrans

One: My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

Many: You are the most handsome of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.

One: Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

Many: You love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

One: Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

All: Daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Anthem

“When in Our Music, God Is Glorified”

arr. Harriet Ziegenhals

Blake Taggert, *trumpet*
Phillip Lowe, *French horn*

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

(The congregation is invited to stand and sing)

Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -
joice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing al - ways
Al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon

“Sing ‘em Sister”
(Song of Solomon 2:8-13)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We would like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet, it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time.

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

Hymn of Commitment

“Pass It On”

Kurt Kaiser

*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.*

It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,
What a won - drous time is spring, when all the trees are bud - ding;
I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi - ness that I've found;

and soon all those a - round can warm up in its
the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their
you can de - pend on him, it mat - ters not where

glow - ing. That's how it is with God's love
bloom - ing. That's how it is with God's love
you're bound. I'll shout it from the moun - tain top;

once you've ex - pe - ri - enced it; you spread his love to
once you've ex - pe - ri - enced it; you want to sing, it's
I want my world to know; the Lord of love has

ev - 'ry - one; you want to pass it on.
fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
come to me, I want to pass it on.

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

Congregational Benediction “The Lord’s Prayer”

Albert Hay Malotte

Our Fa - ther, _____ which art in heav - en _____

_____ hal-low-ed be _____ Thy name. _____ Thy king-dom

come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heav -

en _____ Give us this day our dai - ly

bread. And for - give us our debts, as we _____ for - give our debt - ors.

And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from

e - vil: for Thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er and the

glo - ry, _____ for - ev - er. _____ A - - men. _____

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features various musical notations including rests, eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) and one quadruplet marking (indicated by a '4' above the notes). The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Postlude

“Festal Fanfare” (BWV 595)

J.S. Bach

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Jim Williams.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Faith Kopplin in celebration of Vernon Davis' 90th birthday.

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

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