



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
September 8, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Solemn Melody”

H. Walford Davies

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

“Psalm 100”

Euell Porter

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: Come into His presence with singing.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Processional Hymn, No. 281

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Responsive Reading of Psalm 146

Leslie Rosencrans

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Many: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Many: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

Many: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

One: Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

Many: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

One: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leslie Rosencrans

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Rachel Farris

Epistle Reading

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Sean Sutcliffe

Hymn, No. 463

“From Every Race, from Every Clime”

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-37

Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Daniel Farris

Offertory

“Communion”

Charles Tournemire

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.*

Confession

Scott Turner

One: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you...

Many: In thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

One: We have not loved you with our whole heart;

Many: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

One: We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Many: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: Strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

— *The Book of Common Prayer*

Anthem

“Lost in Wonder”

Claude L. Bass

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.
Finish then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Sermon

“What Good Is It?”
(James 2:1-10, 14-17)

Erin Conaway

Communion

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Please come forward to receive Communion from any of the three stations at the front of the sanctuary. You will be served the bread and the cup. A basket is available for your empty cup once you are finished. To ease congestion, please walk down on the right side of your aisle and return up the left side of your aisle. You may come to any of the three stations. Communion will be brought to anyone unable to come forward; please raise your hand as the Minister and Deacon walk back to serve you.

Silent Reflection

Love your neighbor as yourself: Although its rhetorical power has been dimmed by repetition, that is a radical notion, perhaps the most radical notion possible. Especially since Jesus, in all his teachings, made it very clear who the neighbor you were supposed to love was: the poor person, the sick person, the naked person, the hungry person. The last shall be made first; turn the other cheek; a rich person aiming for heaven is like a camel trying to walk through the eye of a needle. On and on and on — a call for nothing less than a radical, voluntary, and effective reordering of power relationships, based on the principle of love....

— Bill McKibben

Hymn of Commitment, No. 509

“Trust and Obey”

*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 Benediction “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, and be gracious;
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Postlude

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

(AZMON)
Paul Manz

Today at Seventh

On Communion Sundays, the Benevolence offering is received at the doors to help our neighbors in need.

Our Pianist today is Donnie Balmos.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Reggie and Jim Williams with gratitude and love for our church family at Seventh & James for the past fifty years.

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

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