



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
December 29, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child”

French carol
arr. Lani Smith

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.

Gathering Hymn, No. 122

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Litany of Life Together

Scott Turner

One: God of Grace, we indeed praise you. The One to whom the sun and moon do bow; the One to whom the waves of the seas submit their fury; the One to whom we turn in desperation and joy.

Many: You are the One we worship: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

One: Just as you exist in trinitarian community, you created us to dwell together. To share not only our lives as we live them in communion, but also our bread, our money, our hearts, our kindness, our homes, our tables, our sorrows, and our victories.

Many: Give us the courage to live radically together as your church; as your people.

One: Your love and grace extend beyond our boundaries and imagination. Infect us with that kind of inviting love that we too may welcome the stranger, give to one another as you have given to us, and share our lives and love in ways that shout your story to the nations.

All: We are children of your grace; move us closer to one another as you draw us closer to you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Scott Turner

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Matt Rosencrans

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

Erin Conaway

Hymn, No. 133

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Leslie Rosencrans

Offertory

“Come Unto Him”

G.F. Handel

Phillip Lowe, *French horn*

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

(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”)

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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 148

Matt Rosencrans

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Many: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Many: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

Many: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

Many: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

One: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Many: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

One: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Many: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

All: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

Meditation

“The Manger”

arr. Craig Phillips

Phillip Lowe, *French horn*

Sermon

“Forgiveness...Can You Imagine?”
(Colossians 3:12-17)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

— Howard Thurman, “The Work of Christmas”

Hymn of Commitment, No. 143

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*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

“God Rest Ye Merry”

Traditional English
arr. Wilbur Held

Today at Seventh

Our Guest Conductor today is Carolien Tantra.

Our Pianist today is Ellen Deaver.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in appreciation for each of you at Seventh & James for sixty years of support, growth, and love. — Sharon & Dan McNeil

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

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