



**Seventh & James Baptist Church  
January 12, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.  
The Baptism of the Lord**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**                      “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”                      J.C. Bach  
(How Brightly Shines the Morning Star)

**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**                      “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. 310**                      “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

**Responsive Reading of Psalm 29**                      Bill Cooper

One: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Many: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

**Many: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

One: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**Many: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.**

One: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**Many: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”**

One: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

**All: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** Bill Cooper

**Old Testament Reading** *Isaiah 43:1-7* Ann Sims

**Reading from the Acts** *Acts 8:14-17* Michael Clark

**Hymn, No. 152** “When Jesus Came to Jordan”

**Gospel Reading** *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22* Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People** Matt Rosencrans

**Offertory** “How Great Thou Art”  
Tommy Edds, *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.

## 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

Daniel Farris

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

“He Comes to Us”

Jane Marshall

He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside,  
He came to those men who knew Him not.  
He speaks to us the same words: “Follow thou me!”  
And sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time.  
He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple,

He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts,  
The sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship,  
And, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.  
O Morning Star, how fair and bright, Thou beamest forth in truth and light!  
O Sov'reign meek and lowly, Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son, My Lord and Master,  
Thou hast won my heart to serve Thee solely!  
Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all-victorious,  
Rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

## **Sermon**

“Receive The Blessing”  
*(Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)*

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**

None can claim blessing for himself in his own right. Blessing does not come from good works or great heritage. Yet no one wants to start from nothing. The pious resents being leveled with the prostitute, and the rich protests being the brother of the poor. The cross will not let us live in peace and wholeness unless we affirm there that we are brother to all the broken ones. It is there that Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, the Prodigal Son and Elder Brother discover that the Father's desire is to give blessing to all his children alike. Human salvation is usually based on some factor of personal worth or special merit. The cross sets off the rage of the human race because all special claims are done away, and the origin and power of all healing and blessing begins with God, who sees and knows us as we are.

— Myron C. Madden, *The Power to Bless*

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 154

“Christ Is the World’s Light”

*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

“Glory Be to the Father”

Christoph Meineke

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Postlude

“Hymn to Joy”

(Ludwig van Beethoven)  
setting by Albert L. Travis

## Today at Seventh

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

**Our Pianist today** is Tommy Edds.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given to celebrate the New Year. Happy New Year!

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

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