



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
January 26, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Seventh & James Baptist Church
January 26, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“God Himself Is Present”

(WUNDERBARER KÖNIG)

Michael Burkhardt

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

“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. 307

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Litany of Community

Scott Turner

One: As we gather together this morning, we are tempted to view our presence here in Your Sanctuary as something good that we have done: another star in our crown or an ‘A’ in spirituality. We can forget that You built this place through the faithfulness of the saints who came before us.

Many: Lord, help us to remember the long line of community in which we stand.

One: We are also tempted to either believe that we have nothing to offer or that our role here is only to help others who are less fortunate in any number of ways.

Many: Ignite in our hearts the desire to give and receive by Your Grace.

One: As we feel the blessing of our past and the faith of those who have been here before us, as we remember the joy we have shared as we gave to others and the blessings we have known as we received from others, let us remember that we are a body of believers—bound together in your Love and Mercy.

All: Help us to treasure the different gifts we bring to this body, knowing that they are from You, to be used by You as You redeem the world. Draw us closer to one another and closer still to You, our God and King.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Scott Turner

Old Testament Reading *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10* Scott McAllister

Epistle Reading *1 Corinthians 12:12-31a* Lesley McAllister

Hymn, No. 276 “We Belong to Jesus’ Body”

Gospel Reading *Luke 4:14-21* Erin Conaway

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

Prayers of God’s People Erin Conaway

Offertory *“Fairest Lord Jesus”* arr. Alice Setiawan
Carolien Tantra, *piano*

[Alice is an alumna and Carolien’s former church music student at Southeast Asia Bible Seminary Indonesia. She is now serving as a music minister at Holy Word Christian Church at Bandung, Indonesia.]

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.*

Responsive Reading of Psalm 19

Daniel Farris

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Many: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

Many: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

One: Which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Many: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

Many: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

One: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Many: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

One: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Many: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

One: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Anthem “The Heavens Are Telling” (from *The Creation*) Haydn

Carmen Conaway, *soprano*

Edgar Sierra, *tenor*

Jacob Moore, *bass*

The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of His work displays the firmament.

The day that is coming speaks it the day, the night that is gone to following night.

The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of His work displays the firmament.

In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.

The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of His work displays the firmament.

Sermon “The Same Kind of Different” Erin Conaway

(*1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*)

Silent Reflection

We become more human as we discover we are able to love people. And when I say ‘love people,’ I mean to see their value and their beauty, to love people who have been pushed aside, humiliated, seen as having no value. Then we see that they are gradually being changed. At the same time, sharing our lives in community with the weak and the poor, we come in touch with our own limits, pain, and brokenness. We realize that we, too, have our handicaps which are often around our need for power and the feeling that our value lies in being powerful — a power that frequently involves crushing other people. So we’re confronted by two visions of society: a vision of the pyramid, where you have to have more and more power in order to get to the top, or a vision of a body where every person has a place.

— Jean Vanier

Hymn of Commitment, No. 267 “Blest Be the Tie”

*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 Body of Christ”

Timothy R. McKinney

God has combined the members of the body,
And has given greater honor to those that lacked it,
So that there should be no division in the body,
But that its members should have equal care for each other.
If one member suffers, all members suffer; if one is honored, all rejoice.
You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a member.

Postlude

“Psalm 19, The Heavens Declare”

Benedetto Marcello

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Carolien Tantra.

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

Permission to print music obtained from CCLI, license #1450684. Permission to record and stream worship services from CCLI, license #22321029.