



**Seventh & James Baptist Church  
February 23, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.  
The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**

“Blessed Are the Merciful”

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

**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**

“Surely the Lord Is in This Place”

Herbert Colvin

Surely the Lord is this place.  
This is none other than the House of God,  
And this is the Gate of Heaven.  
Surely the Lord is in this place.

**Processional Hymn, No. 319**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

**Litany of Love Excelling**

Matt Rosencrans

One: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

**Many: “Love Divine all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.”**

One: God’s love was revealed to us in this way: God sent his only son into the world.

**Many: “Joy of heaven to earth come down.”**

One: So that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**Many: “Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.”**

One: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

**All: “Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.”**

— quotes from Hymn No. 281, texts from 1 John 4:9 & John 3:16

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Matt Rosencrans

**Old Testament Reading**

*Genesis 45:3-11, 15*

John Cullar

**Epistle Reading**

*1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50*

Meg Cullar

**Hymn, No. 694**

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

**Gospel Reading**

*Luke 6:27-38*

Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of God’s People**

Daniel Farris

**Offertory**

“Coming Home”

David DeLoach, *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.*

## Responsive Reading of Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Scott Turner

One: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

**Many: For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.**

One: Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

**Many: Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

One: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

**Many: He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

One: Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

**Many: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret--it leads only to evil.**

One: For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

**Many: Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

One: But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

**All: The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.**

## Anthem

"Prayer of St. Francis"

Allen Pote

Carmen Conaway, *soprano*

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord.

Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where there's despair let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, let there be light.  
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.  
Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
For it is in giving that we receive and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Amen.

**Sermon**

“Love Anyway...”  
(*Luke 6:27-38*)

Erin Conaway

### **Silent Reflection**

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;  
Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.  
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.  
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
Be honest anyway.  
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.  
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got anyway.  
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;  
It was never between you and them  
anyway.

— Saint Theresa of Calcutta

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 290

“Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace”

*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

“Peace I Leave with You”

David W. Music

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you:  
Not as the world giveth, give I to you. Amen.

## Postlude

“Toccata on LOBE DEN HERREN”

Craig Phillips

## Today at Seventh

**Our Pianist today** is David DeLoach.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given by the Seventh & James youth in honor of Donna Kennedy’s birthday on February 10 and in gratitude for 30 years of teaching Sunday school and sharing in the lives of the youth in many, many ways.

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

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