



Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 16, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Second Sunday in Lent

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Savior, When in Dust to You”

(ABERYSTWYTH)
Alfred Fedak

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

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God!

Processional Hymn, No. 58

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Litany of Lenten Travels

Katie Cook

One: The journey is never longer than when we take the first step, and as we gaze down this road to the cross on which we must travel this Lenten season, we ask, O God, for you to give us courage and strength for this journey.

Many: Help us move closer to the cross and the enormity of your love.

One: It is not without a great deal of inner resistance that we assume a penitent posture. Everything in our world beckons us to gather, to conquer, to keep, to take; we know

these things are fleeting so we want more for when they run out, but you call us to set a few of them aside just for a season, to taste and see that you are good and that you provide for us.

Many: Help us to let go and take up all that will get our attention and focus our hearts on you.

One: We set our faces toward Jerusalem and the journey you took to get there. Help us to travel deeply and to abandon the fear that would prevent us from clearing out a kneeling place in our hearts and in our lives. Guide us along this path, for you know it intimately and have the scars to prove it.

All: Help us to see the way, to overcome our fear, and to walk with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Katie Cook

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Sam Conaway

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Carmen Conaway

Hymn, No. 543

“Abide with Me”

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:31-35

Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Leslie Rosencrans

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

“Steal Away to Jesus”

Traditional spiritual
arr. Gilbert Martin

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 O WALY, WALY, tune of “When Love Is Found,” No. 524)

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 27

Daniel Farris

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Many: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.

One: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

Many: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

One: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Many: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

One: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

Many: “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

One: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

Many: If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

One: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Many: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

One: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

All: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Anthem

“What Wondrous Love Is This?”

arr. Heather Sorenson

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To send his precious hope for my soul, for my soul?

To send his precious hope for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down;

When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy), Have mercy upon my soul.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,

And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,

And through eternity I’ll sing on.

Sermon

“Empathy, Tears, and Lent”

Ryan McCord

(Luke 13:31-35)

Silent Reflection

Lent has begun, and we need to live in this dark place between the ashes and the bread and wine, between the declaration of our mortality and the declaration of Christ's redeeming work. Lent is a time to reckon with the reality of the darkness. We do so with hope, because the season ends in Easter, in resurrection, in new life. But we can be raised to new life only if we have first died to the old one. That is the challenge and the gift of Lent.

— Kimberlee Conway Ireton, *Christian Century*, March 10, 2009

Hymn of Commitment, No. 646

“Teach Me Your Way”

*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

Scott Turner

One: Every step closer to Holy Week brings us that much closer to the darkness.

Many: Give us courage to walk this path with you.

One: We know even as the light grows dim, there is an increasing brightness behind the shadows.

Many: Fellow bearers of light...let us walk out together in hope and joy.

One: Go out into the world ready to receive unexpected grace and live into the high calling of Christ's sacrificial love.

Choral Benediction

“Peace Be Unto You”

Herbert Colvin

Peace be unto you, and joy be unto you.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and evermore. Amen.

Postlude

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

(Jesu, Meine Freude)
Michael Burkhardt

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is David Gilbreath.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Rachel Farris.

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

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