



Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 30, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 30, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Meditation

“Rondeau”

Mouret/Wagner

ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR

Chiming of the Hour

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

“Thee We Adore, O Savior”

Theodore Dubois

Thee we adore, O Savior, bless thee and praise thee forever.
For on the holy cross thou hast the world from sin redeemed.
Thee we adore, O Savior, bless thee and praise thee forever.

Processional Hymn, No. 425

“How Firm a Foundation”

Litany of Grace and Peace

Jay Belew

One: Faithful and loving God, we bring our fragmented lives into the presence of your wholeness. We bring our wandering thoughts into your eternal light. We bring our restless spirits into the calming strength of your grace.

Many: Help us to eat the bread of grace and drink from the cup of peace.

One: We give you thanks because even in moments of great anxiety when the threads of our lives are hanging loose, chaotic, and disconnected, we can be confident that you are with us.

Many: Help us to share this bounty of grace and peace with each other.

One: We're too busy to stop, hurling ourselves through life, weary from holding up our heavy burdens. We confess...and we confess again...we have labored under the assumption that the way to find rest for our souls is to finish our list of things to do and present it to you like a book.

Many: Forgive our compulsiveness and our forgetfulness about your grace.

One: O God, remind us that we do not and cannot go it alone. When we look down the road we see Jesus, waiting to heave the weight of our burdens onto His shoulders.

All: Let us feel the freedom of lifted burdens by your grace and may we rest in your peace.

— adapted from *Prayers and Litanies for the Christian Seasons*
by Sharlande Sledge, p. 104

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jay Belew

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

Marcus Fowler

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sean Sutcliffe

Hymn, No. 406

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Daniel Farris

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

“There Is a Fountain”

Kurt Meyer

ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR

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 32

Scott Turner

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Many: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

One: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Many: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

One: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Many: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

One: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Many: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

One: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

All: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Sermon "Acknowledging Sin..." Erin Conway
(*Psalms 32*)

Anthem "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Robert H. Young
Carmen Conway, *soprano*

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.
See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Silent Reflection

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting 'I'm clean livin'.'
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."
When I say... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.
When I say... "I am Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say... “I am a Christian”
I’m not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.
When I say... “I am a Christian”
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say... “I am a Christian”
I’m not holier than thou,
I’m just a simple sinner
Who received God’s good grace,
somehow!

— Maya Angelou

Hymn of Commitment, No. 680

“I Then Shall Live”

*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

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

“He Humbled Himself”

Timothy R. McKinney

He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Postlude

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Wilbur Held

Today at Seventh

Adult Handbell Choir

Rosalie Beck
Sonia Belew
Lorie Crowder
Doris DeLoach

Linda Hynan
Pat Hynan
Ann McGlashan
Bryce Shelton

Ann Sims
Carolien Tantra
Cindy Utama
Patricia Wilson

Our Pianist today is Tommy Edds.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Rachel Farris.

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.