



Seventh & James Baptist Church
April 6, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Litany of Love

Mathis McKeever

One: The writer of 1 John encourages us to love one another because you, O God, are love. Love is such a difficult word for us to define. For many of us it has been manipulated and used against us to get something from us. For many of us it has meant only pain and critique, never joy and affirmation. For some of us, our love causes us to be ostracized and pushed out.

Many: God, show us true love, remind us of what your love looks like.

One: We are reminded that our love for one another grows from the deep well of your love for us—even before we loved you, O God, you loved us. So often the very thing that breaks our sense of your absence in our midst is the love of a neighbor, a sister or brother.

Many: Give us the courage to love as you love, before and without guarantee of reciprocation.

One: We are so often a people who cry out in our thirst and find you meeting us with living water and we drink deeply and with intensity. Then we wipe our mouths on our sleeves, stand up and walk away and instantly forget our thirst as we encounter the next thirsty brother or sister along the path.

All: Teach us to live in love, as your beloved. Teach us to live in love: working, moving, feeding, clothing, visiting, and sacrificing. Teach us to live in love: the way you love us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

CJ McKeever

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Sam Conaway

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Chloe Smith

Hymn, No. 71

“Be Thou My Vision”

Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

Eli Ryden

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Atticus Ryden

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

“Beach Spring Stomp”

Jeffrey Honoré

YOUTH 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

Ivy Hynan

*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 126

Ava Farris

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Many: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

One: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Many: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

One: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

All: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Anthem

“Kyrie Eleison”

Dana Mengel

(from *Doxa 1* published by the Singapore Bible College)

YOUTH CHOIR

Holy Son of Man, I kneel here before Your cross,
Broken and sorrowful by what man’s sin has done.

Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy), I pray.

Precious Lamb of God, I bow before You now,
So unworthy of Your redeeming grace.

Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy), I pray.

Kneeling here below Your cross, all my gain for sure seems lost.

Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy), I pray.

Sermons

Isaiah 43:16-21

Sam Conaway

John 12:1-8

Eli Ryden

Silent Reflection

In the trust of old love,
cultivation shows
a dark graceful wilderness
at its heart. Wild
in that wilderness, we roam
the distances of our faith,
safe beyond the bounds
of what we know. O love,
open. Show me
my country. Take me home.

— Wendell Berry

Hymn of Commitment, No. 278

“We Are Travelers on a Journey”

*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

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 "What Does the Lord Require of You?" Jim Strathdee
What does the Lord require of you?
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)

Postlude "Antiphon on *VICTORY*" Robert Lau
Yuri Hatakeyama, *organ*

Today at Seventh

Youth Choir & Youth Handbell Choir

Sam Conaway	Audrey Ludwig	Eli Ryden
Ava Farris	CJ McKeever	Chloe Smith
Yuri Hatakeyama	Mathis McKeever	
Ivy Hynan	Atticus Ryden	

Our Pianist today is Lesley McAllister.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Rachel Farris.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in honor of the Youth Group at Seventh.

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

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