



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**April 20, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.**  
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*The Congregation is invited to ring Easter bells  
each time you hear the word “Alleluia.”*

**Meditation**      “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” (from *MESSIAH*)      G.F. Handel

Lise Uhl, *soprano*  
Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

**Christ is Risen Litany**      Erin Conaway

One: Christ is Risen!

**Many: He is Risen Indeed!**

Eury Alvarez, *Spanish*  
Rosalie Beck, *Vietnamese*  
Sonia Charles, *French*  
David Chrisna, *Indonesian*  
Dillan Damping, *Latin*  
Ken Hatakeyama, *Japanese*  
Carl Hoover, *Portuguese*  
Cindy Jones, *German*  
Mike Long, *Finnish*  
Jung-Hyun Min, *Korean*  
Lidija Novakovic, *Croatian*  
Abdul Saadi, *Aramaic*  
Naila Saadi, *Arabic*  
Carolien Tantra, *Mandarin*  
Lynn Tatum, *Hebrew*

One: Christ is Risen!

**Many: He is Risen Indeed!**

One: Alleluia!

**Many: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Choral Summons**

“Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!”

Lynn Shaw Bailey

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*

Pat Hynan, Ivy Hynan, Rachel Farris, and Terry Reeves, *handbells*

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Jesus rose up from the dead.

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! He is alive, just as he said!

Let all mortal voice cry out. Let the mountains and valleys shout.

Jesus Christ has come to save. Jesus have conquered the grave.

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Jesus rose up from the dead.

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! He is alive, just as he said!

Jesus won the victory. Jesus gave us eternity.

Let all hearts and hands be raised. Jesus is worthy of praise.

*In celebration of the Resurrection,  
please stand as the Christ Candle passes your row.*

**Procession of the Christ Candle**

Robbie and Daryle Echols

**Processional Hymn, No. 194**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

**Litany of Alleluias**

Kent McKeever

One: Christ the Lord is risen today!

**Many: Alleluia!**

One: We offer up our glad Alleluias this morning for your victory over death and all it means for us. The imprint of eternity is pressed into our souls like the fingerprint of a sculptor into her clay. Help us to live these temporal lives with eternity in mind.

**Many: Alleluia!**

One: We sing and shout your praise for the many blessings you bountifully bestow on our lives and in our shared life together. We thank you for Easter joy bouncing through our hearts all year long.

**Many: Alleluia!**

One: We even offer our praise from the shadows. Those of us for whom this light isn't shining bear witness to your presence with us in the darkness of our struggle. For we

see your love on the cross as well as outside of the empty tomb. We feel you in our long nights as well as our bright mornings.

**Many: Alleluia!**

**All: Ever-present, eternally loving, gracefully forgiving light of the world, may our glad alleluias echo into eternity!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** Kent McKeever

**Meditation** “Fairest Lord Jesus” arr. Bill Ingram  
CHILDREN’S HANDBELL CHOIR

**Old Testament Reading** *Isaiah 65:17-25* John Cullar

**Reading from the Acts** *Acts 10:34-43* Meg Cullar

**Hymn, No. 214** “The Day of Resurrection!”

**Gospel Reading** *John 20:1-18* Leslie Rosencrans  
One: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**The Prayers of God’s People** Leslie Rosencrans

**Offertory** “Lord of the Dance” (Shaker melody)  
setting by Joel Raney  
Donnie Balmos, *piano*  
Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

*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 LASST UNS ERFREUEN, tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King," No. 307)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## 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 118:1-2, 14-24

Scott Turner

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**Many: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

One: The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

**Many: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;**

One: The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

**Many: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.**

One: The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

**Many: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**

One: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

**Many: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

**All: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **Anthem**

### “A Triumphant Alleluia”

Joseph Martin

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim for the world’s salvation bled.  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Come and lift your hearts on high.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let your anthems fill the sky.  
Alleluia, to the Father, Alleluia, to the Son,  
Alleluia, to the Spirit, praise the blessed Three-in-One!  
This is the day that God has made for song.  
Rejoice in life and sing with spirits strong.  
Bring worthy praise to whom all praise belongs. Alleluia!  
Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!  
Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!  
Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven’s blissful shore his goodness we’ll adore,  
Singing forever more: Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia!

## **Sermon**

### “Dare to Hope?”

Erin Conaway

*(John 20:1-18)*

## **Silent Reflection**

We have heard so much tragic news that when the news is good we cannot hear it. But the proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the Cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and

our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen.

— Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

### **Hymn of Commitment, No. 223**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”  
*Choristers Hymn-of-the-Month for March*

*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: Christ is Risen!

**Many: He is Risen Indeed!**

One: Alleluia!

**Many: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Choral Response**

“Alleluia, Christ Is Risen”

Mark Patterson

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*

Alleluia, Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.  
Come and see where he lay, see the stone has been rolled away,  
Let the news be proclaimed: Christ is risen today!  
Alleluia, Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.  
Let the mighty trumpet sound, let praises fill the sky.  
Let the song of joy resound, come lift your voice on high.  
Alleluia, rejoice. Alleluia, rejoice.

Come and praise the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.  
Alleluia, Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**Postlude**

“Toccatà” from *Symphonie No. V*

Charles-Marie Widor

**Today at Seventh**

**Children’s Handbell Choir**

Dillan Damping  
SuNom Felix

Eri Hatakeyama  
Robin Land

Comfort Michael  
Wesley Zuniga

**Choristers**

Dillan Damping  
Sefton Farris  
Nathan Felix  
SuNom Felix

Eri Hatakeyama  
Jun Hatakeyama  
Liam Land  
Robin Land

Camden McAllister  
Comfort Michael  
Edward Smith  
Wesley Zuniga

**Our Musicians today are** Donnie Balmos, *piano*; Martin Davenport, *trombone*; and Arthur Torres, *trumpet*.

**The Artwork on the Cover** is a portion of the *Stations of the Cross* colored by the Youth Group at Seventh & James and displayed in 2022.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given in celebration of our Risen Lord. Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

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

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