



Seventh & James Baptist Church
May 18, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“The Ash Grove”

arr. Katherine Larson

ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leslie Rosencrans

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

“This Is the Day”

Robert Lau

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*

This is the day which the Lord has made; rejoice all believers, and be very glad.

This is the day which the Lord has made; rejoice all believers, Alleluia!

Alleluia! We raise our song to praise God’s name.

Alleluia! God loves us all the same, Alleluia!

This is the day which the Lord has made; rejoice all believers, and be very glad.

This is the day which the Lord has made; rejoice all believers, Alleluia!

Processional Hymn, No. 319

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Choristers Hymn-of-the-Month for April

Litany of the Human Family

Scott Turner

One: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:

Many: Look with compassion on the whole human family.

One: Take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;

Many: Break down the walls that separate us;

One: Unite us in bonds of love; work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time,

All: All nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

— *The Book of Common Prayer*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Scott Turner

Meditation

“Song for Beginnings”

Kevin R. Riehle

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*

Rachel Farris, Pat Hynan, and Terry Reeves, *chimes*

Come, my children, I will teach you of the goodness of the Lord.
God, your guardian, never sleeping, never slumb’ring, gives the Word.

“I will keep you, I will keep you as the apple of my eye.
I will keep you, I will keep you as the apple of my eye.”

From your birth you were protected by the watermark of grace;
God is here from life’s beginning speaking love into this place.

“I will hide you, I will hide you in the shadow of my wings.
I will hide you, I will hide you in the shadow of my wings.”

Reading from the Acts

Acts 11:1-18

Kirk Brassfield

Reading from the Revelation

Revelation 21:1-6

Debbie Brassfield

Hymn, No. 204

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

Erin Conaway

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of God’s People

Erin Conaway

Offertory

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”
 (“Now Comes the Gentiles’ Savior”)

J.S. Bach/Busoni

Lesley McAllister, *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

(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 148

Daniel Farris

One: Hallelujah. Praise GOD from the heavens; give praise on high.

Many: Give praise, all you angels, give praise, all divine hosts.

One: Give praise, sun and moon, give praise, all bright stars.

Many: Give praise, highest heavens, and you waters that are above the heavens.

One: Let them praise the name of GOD—who commanded that they be created, and who made them endure forever, establishing an order that shall never change.

Many: Praise GOD, O you who are on earth, all sea monsters and ocean depths,

One: Fire and hail, snow and smoke, storm wind that executes God’s command,

Many: All mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars, all wild and tamed animals,

One: Creeping things and winged birds, all kings and peoples of the earth,

Many: All princes of the earth and its judges, youths and maidens alike, old and young together.

One: Let them praise GOD's name—for sublime is this name alone—of the One whose splendor covers heaven and earth.

All: GOD has exalted the horn of this people for the glory of all faithful ones, Israel, the people brought close. Hallelujah.

Anthem

“Gaelic Alleluia”

Craig Courtney

Lesley McAllister and Michael Clark, *piano*
Lorie Crowder, *tambourine*

Joy dawned again on Easter Day, the sun shone out with fair array;
When to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord. Alleluia!

O Jesus, king of gentleness, Do Thou Thyself our hearts possess
That we may give Thee all our days the willing tribute of our praise. Alleluia!

O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide;
For every weapon death can wield Thine own redeemed forever shield. Alleluia!

O sons and daughters of the King, whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sermon

“Everyone Has a Gentile”

Erin Conaway

(*Acts 11:1-18*)

Silent Reflection

‘He is anyone toward whom you are neighborly. He is anyone who lies in need at life’s roadside. He is neither Jew nor Gentile; he is neither Russian nor American; he is neither Negro nor white. He is “a certain man”—any needy man—on one of the numerous Jericho roads of life.’ The Samaritan was good because he made concern for others the first law of his life... In the final analysis, I must not ignore the wounded man on life’s Jericho Road, because he is a part of me and I am a part of him. His agony diminishes me, and his salvation enlarges me.

— Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 254

“Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race”

*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 Response

“A Benediction”

Shirley W. McRae

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*

Pat Hynan, *handbells*

Go in peace, go in love, go with blessings from above.
Help a friend, say a prayer, for God’s children ev’rywhere. Amen.

Postlude

“Jesus Shall Reign”

(DUKE ST.)

arr. Herbert Colvin

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

Choristers

Dillan Damping
Sefton Farris
Nathan Felix
SuNom Felix

Eri Hatakeyama
Jun Hatakeyama
Liam Land
Robin Land

Camden McAllister
Comfort Michael
Wesley Zuniga

Our Sixth Grade Choristers are Robin Land and Wesley Zuniga. Today they will receive their Choir Crosses and a copy of the *Celebrating Grace* hymnal as they complete their time in Choristers.

Sixth Grade Journey Tables—Each year our sixth graders have a chance to put together *Journey Tables*. *Journey Tables* offer you a chance to know more about each of our sixth-graders. Please join us in the narthex following worship to visit the tables for Charlie Coker and Robin Land.

Our Pianist today is Lesley McAllister.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in celebration of Mary Ann & Don Cook for their 49th wedding anniversary (May 22, 1976).

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

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