



Seventh & James Baptist Church
May 25, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“I’ve Got the Joy Down in My Heart” arr. Valerie W. Stephenson
YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

Welcome and Call to Worship

Erin Conaway

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

“Hear Our Prayer”

Dale Grotenhuis

Hear our prayer, O Lord; O Lord, incline your ear.

O hear our prayer, hear our prayer, hear our prayer, and grant us your peace.

Processional Hymn, No. 345

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Litany of Sabbath Keeping

Vernon Davis

One: May this day bring Sabbath rest to our hearts and homes.

Many: Lord, give us deep rest and meaningful work.

One: May God's image in us be restored, and our imagination in God be re-storied.

Many: Lord, give us deep rest and meaningful work.

One: May the gravity of material things be lightened, and the relativity of time slow down.

Many: Lord, give us deep rest and meaningful work.

One: May we know grace to embrace our own finite smallness in the arms of God's infinite greatness.

Many: Lord, give us deep rest and meaningful work.

One: May God's Word feed us and the Spirit lead us into the week and life to come.

— adapted from a poem by Pete Greig

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Vernon Davis

Reading from the Acts

Acts 16:9-15

Suzanne Alcorn

Reading from the Revelation *Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5*

Lloyd Alcorn

Hymn, No. 541

“Heal Me, Hands of Jesus”

Gospel Reading

John 5:1-9

Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of God's People

Scott Turner

Offertory

“Glorify Thy Name”

arr. Bruce Greer

Carolien Tantra, *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 67

Daniel Farris

One: May God be gracious to us and bless us, showing us favor, that Your way be known on earth, Your deliverance among all nations.

Many: Peoples will praise You, O God; all peoples will praise You.

One: Nations will exult and shout for joy, for You rule the peoples with equity, You guide the nations of the earth.

Many: The peoples will praise You, O God; all peoples will praise You.

One: May the earth yield its produce; may God, our God, bless us.

All: May God bless us, and be revered to the ends of the earth.

Anthem

“Great Jehovah”

Pepper Choplin

Lead me, Great Jehovah, guide me over this desert land.
Find me wandering and weary. I will hold dearly Your guiding hand.
Great Jehovah, Lord of the mountain where I received Your holy Word;
Come and help me, Lord of the desert, to look beyond my hunger and my thirst.
I need You; I need Your power to meet this hour with strength and grace.
Grant me one more desire: lift my head higher to see Your face.
Great Jehovah, Lord of the mountain where I received Your holy Word;
Come and help me, Lord of the desert, to look beyond my hunger and my thirst.
I am a pilgrim on a journey, wandering through a barren land.
Lord, keep my feet upon Your highway. This place is full of sinking sand.
Lead me, Great Jehovah, guide me over this desert land.
Find me wandering and weary. I will hold dearly Your guiding hand.

Sermon

“Good Trouble”

Erin Conaway

(John 5:1-9)

Silent Reflection

If there is no Sabbath—no regular and commanded not-working, not-talking—we become totally absorbed in our own doing and saying, and God’s work is either forgotten or marginalized. When we work we are most god-like, which means that it is in our work that it is easiest to develop god-pretensions. Our work becomes the context in which we define our lives. We lose God-consciousness, God-awareness. We lose the capacity to sing “This is my Father’s world” and end up chirping little self-centered ditties about what we are doing and feeling....

I don’t see any way out of it: If we are going to honor the Father, we must keep the Sabbath. We must stop running around long enough to see what he has done and is doing. We must shut up long enough to hear what he has said and is saying. All our ancestors agree that without silence and stillness there is no spirituality, no God-attentive, God-responsive life.

— Eugene H. Peterson, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*, 116-118

Hymn of Commitment, No. 561

“Shall We Gather at the River”

*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.

Staff Recognition

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Response

“Peace I Leave with You”

David W. Music

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you:
Not as the world giveth, give I to you. Amen.

Postlude

“Sing Praise to the Lord”

(LAUDATE DOMINUM)
Robert A. Hobby

Today at Seventh

Youth Handbell Choir

Sam Conaway
Ava Farris
Yuri Hatakeyama

Ivy Hynan
CJ McKeever
Mathis McKeever

Atticus Ryden
Eli Ryden
Chloe Smith

Our Pianist today is Carolien Tantra.

The Rose on the Organ celebrates the birth of Kahlani Malaysia Moore, born May 13, to Victoria and Derrick Moore. Grandmother is Valerie Willis.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in celebration of Holly & Jeremy Land’s 13th wedding anniversary.

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

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