



Seventh & James Baptist Church
June 1, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“In Heavenly Love Abiding”

(NYLAND, Finnish melody)
David Westenkuehler

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

“There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob”

Felix Mendelssohn

As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams,
Of light and consolation,
Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting,
Truth imparting, gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!

Processional Hymn, No. 312

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Litany of Justice and Kindness

Daniel Farris

One: Disturbing God, when we forget that you created each person in your image,

Many: Shock us into the reality of your justice for all people.

One: When we impose our own will over those already oppressed,

Many: Shock us into the reality of your justice for all people.

One: When we increase the volume of self-serving speech while others have no voice,

Many: Shock us into the reality of your justice for all people.

One: When we refuse to comfort our neighbors,

Many: Shock us into the reality of your kindness for all people.

One: When we fail to make room for the needs of others in our familiar places,

Many: Shock us into the reality of your kindness for all people.

One: When we turn our backs on the pain of others rather than walk with them toward their healing,

All: Shock us into the reality of your justice and kindness for all people. And bless us with a humble spirit, that we may walk in your way.

— Adapted from Sharlande Sledge,
Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Seasons, p. 113

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Daniel Farris

Reading from the Acts

Acts 16:16-34

Ray Deaver

Reading from the Revelation *Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21*

Ellen Deaver

Hymn, No. 592

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

Gospel Reading

John 17:20-26

Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of God’s People

Matt Rosencrans

Offertory

David DeLoach, *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 97

Scott Turner

One: God is sovereign! Let the earth exult, the many islands rejoice!

Many: Surrounded by dense clouds—righteousness and justice are the base of the heavenly throne.

One: Fire is the vanguard, burning up foes on every side.

Many: God's lightnings light up the world; the earth is convulsed at the sight;

One: Mountains melt like wax at God's presence, at the presence of the Sovereign of all the earth.

Many: The heavens proclaim God's righteousness and all peoples see God's glory.

One: All who worship images, who vaunt their idols, are dismayed; all divine beings bow down in homage.

Many: Zion, hearing it, rejoices, the towns of Judah exult, because of Your judgments, O Eternal One.

One: For You, Eternal One, are supreme over all the earth; You are exalted high above all divine beings.

**Many: O you who love God, hate evil! For the lives of the loyal are guarded;
they are saved from the hand of the wicked.**

One: Light is sown for the righteous, radiance for the upright.

All: O you righteous, rejoice in God and acclaim God's holy name!

Anthem

“This Is My Father’s World ”

Elaine Hagenberg

Sue Jacobson, *violin*

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world: the birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker’s praise.

This is my Father’s world: He shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father’s world: O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father’s world: the battle is not done.
Jesus who died will be satisfied and heaven and earth be one.

Sermon

“Liberation and Learning...”

Erin Conaway

(Acts 16:16-34)

Silent Reflection

Underneath all our emphasis on successful action, many of us suffer from a deep-seated, low self-esteem... And so our actions become more an expression of fear than of inner freedom... As we keep our eyes directed at the One who says, “Do not be afraid,” we may slowly let go of our fear. We will learn to live in a world without zealously defended borders. We will be free to see the suffering of other people, free to respond not with defensiveness, but with compassion, with peace, with ourselves.

— Henri Nouwen

Hymn of Commitment, No. 475

“Only Trust Him”

*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

“Go Now and Live for the Savior”

Kurt Kaiser

Go now, and live for the Savior; Go, may His joy be your joy too.
Go, may His presence ever guide you; Go, live this life the whole day through.

Postlude

“When in Our Music God is Glorified”

(ENGELBERG)
Charles Callahan

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is David DeLoach.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in honor of the 56th wedding anniversary of Sharon & Dan McNeil.

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

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