

Seventh & James Baptist Church
October 11, 2026 · 11:00 a.m.
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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation "Abide with Me" Robert A. Hobby

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.

Gathering Hymn, No. 281 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Litany of Looking Up Scott Turner

One: We are gathered for worship.

Many: In a world of half-truths, we need a time of truth-telling.

One: In a world of many gods, we need an encounter with the one true God.

Many: In a world that demands so much of us—and yet so little of us—we need to be confronted with a gospel that will ask of us our very lives.

One: Why do you look upward?

Many: Our Lord has been taken away into heaven.

One: Look around you. What do you see?

Many: There are so many places where the love of God is needed.

One: Look beyond you. Where will you go?

Many: Christ calls us to go into the world, bringing God's healing love to all.

One: Look inside you. What do you see?

All: God's abiding love… alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving — Scott Turner

Old Testament Reading — *Exodus 32:1-14* — Jonathon Platt

Epistle Reading — *Philippians 4:1-9* — Rachel Platt

Hymn, No. 543 — "Abide with Me"

Gospel Reading — *Matthew 22:1-14* — Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of God's People — Matt Rosencrans

Offertory — "Dream Boat" — Florence Price

Michael Clark, *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 Harper Hall as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God's call.

Doxology, No. 707

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. Amen.

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 106:1-6; 19-23 Daniel Farris

One: Hallelujah. Praise God, who is good—whose steadfast love is eternal.

Many: Who can tell God's mighty acts, proclaim all due praises?

One: Happy are those who act justly, who do right at all times.

Many: Be mindful of me, O Eternal One, when You favor Your people;

One: Take note of me when You deliver them, that I may enjoy the prosperity of Your chosen ones, share the joy of Your nation, glory in Your very own people.

Many: We have sinned like our ancestors; we have gone astray, done evil.

One: They made a calf at Horeb and bowed down to a molten image.

Many: They exchanged their glory for the image of a bull that feeds on grass.

One: They forgot God who saved them, who performed great deeds in Egypt, wondrous deeds in the land of Ham, awesome deeds at the Sea of Reeds.

All: They would have been destroyed had not Moses, God's chosen one, stood in the breach to avert God's destructive wrath.

Anthem "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" arr. Mack Wilberg

Pam Hyatt, *flute*
Aiden Hyatt, *flute*

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His and He is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house for ever.

Sermon "On Making Repairs Instead of Idols…" Erin Conaway
(Exodus 32:1-14)

Silent Reflection

Each of us learns—or fails to learn—from illness in our own way. What I have learned is that, while God may often seem remote and your faith less resistant than you would wish, yet that Kingdom-melody which has been fashioned in me over a lifetime has survived and has proved a strength. I have sought to keep faith with the Psalmist: "My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing, and make melody." The melody that endures. I have learned that in a crisis God's grace works through the kindness and thoughtfulness of the countless people whose lives we have touched, hopefully (and often unawares) for the good.

— Michael Mayne, *The Enduring Melody*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 68 "He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought"

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 Benediction "Brother James's Air" Mack Wilberg

Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;
And in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be.
And in my heart forever more Thy dwelling place shall be.

Postlude "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" arr. Anna Laura Page

Today at Seventh

Our pianist today is Michael Clark.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Doris and David DeLoach in memory of Euell Porter, former minister of music, on his birthday (10-10-10).

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

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