

Seventh & James Baptist Church
November 15, 2026 · 11:00 a.m.
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation "Be Thou My Vision" (Traditional Irish melody) arr. Ovid Young

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.

Gathering Hymn, No. 566 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Litany of Resistance Scott Turner

One: Gathered in Your name, we share copious needs and wants and desires. Some might even call them Legion. Something draws us to this place, this sanctuary, this community, this faith, this worship.

Many: Lord, we believe, help our unbelief.

One: Our sin, "not in part but the whole," as the poet sings, is a big part of our problem. We own that. And some of us struggle with other things as well: broken families, broken bodies, broken systems, broken minds, broken willpower—we need help.

Many: Lord, make it well with our souls.

One: We need help. And we are happy to receive it from You as long as You don't mess up our lives in the ways we've arranged them. We know from Scripture that You can ask too much; You can require more than we are willing to give, and we like our lives, except where we don't.

All: We confess our need for Your help in actually seeking You. God, open our hearts to want more than small repairs or fleeting happiness. Open us to Your radical transformation and overcome our resistance to Your Truth, Your Way, Your Life with us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Scott Turner

Old Testament Reading *Zephaniah 3:14-20* John Cullar

Epistle Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11* Meg Cullar

Hymn, No. 409 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:14-30* Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
Many: Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of God's People Matt Rosencrans

Offertory "Anahata (Heart) from *Chakras*" Scott McAllister

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 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 90:1-8, 12 Daniel Farris

One: O my Sovereign, You have been our refuge in every generation.

Many: Before the mountains came into being, before You brought forth the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity You are God.

One: You return humans to dust; You decreed, "Return, you mortals!"

Many: For in Your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that has passed, like a watch of the night.

One: You engulf mortals in sleep; at daybreak they are like grass that renews itself; at daybreak it flourishes anew; by dusk it withers and dries up.

Many: So we are consumed by Your anger, terror-struck by Your fury.

One: You have set our iniquities before You, our hidden sins in the light of Your face.

All: Teach us to count our days rightly, that we may obtain a wise heart.

Anthem "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. Dan Forrest

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed, Thy hand hast provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, and ten thousand beside!

Sermon "Stay Woke!" Erin Conaway
(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

Silent Reflection

We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aid, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn.

— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 587 "Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound"

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 "Amazing Grace" arr. Robert T. Gibson

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
We have already come;
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far,
And grace will lead us home.

Postlude "A Mighty Fortress" (Ein' Feste Burg)
Martin Luther
arr. Ovid Young

Today at Seventh

Our pianist today is Lesley McAllister.

The Sanctuary Flowers are giving in appreciation of Carolyn & Naymond Keathley and their many years of service as money counters and the calendar coordinators for that important work.

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

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