

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**                      **O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go**                      **Jack Brooks**

**\*DOXOLOGY #607**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*—Sending—*

**\*HYMN # 541**                      **God Be with You Till We Meet Again**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      **God Is So Good**                      **Jack Brooks**

*You may be seated after the light passes you in the aisle.*

Debbi Ricci.....Administrative Assistant  
Jack Brooks .....Guest Organist

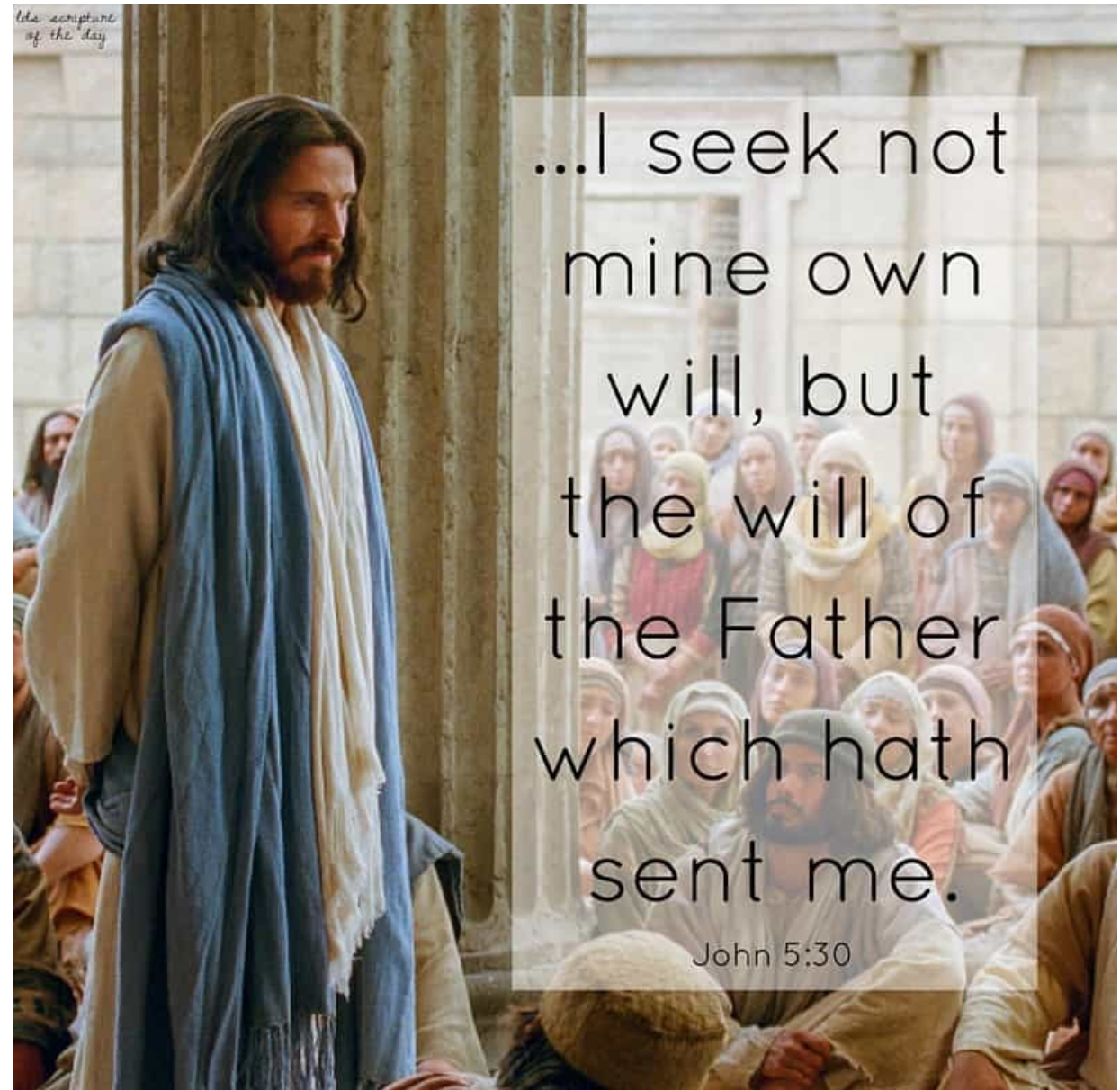


*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



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...I seek not  
mine own  
will, but  
the will of  
the Father  
which hath  
sent me.

John 5:30

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENDERSON, TX**  
**7th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 23, 2025**

(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit  
***Bold Italic Letters*** indicate congregational response

— Gathering —

PRELUDE

Song

Jack Brooks

WELCOME

Liturgist: Kathy Porter

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

***Our salvation is from the Lord;***

God is our refuge in times of trouble.

***The Lord helps us and rescues us;***

God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

\*HYMN #336

We Gather Together

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods.***

***You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other "gods" — the false gods of prosperity and materialism, racial and ethnic privileging, gender exclusivity, and nationalistic imperialism. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — God's radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love will not let us go and is ever bringing resurrection and new life. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. Thanks be to God!

\*GLORIA PATRI #581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;***

***as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.***

—Word—

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-17 Bible p. 194-195, LG p. 251-252

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL

John 5:30-47

Bible p. 91, LG p. 118

The word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

No Blind Faith!

Rev. David Reeder

—Response—

\*HYMN # 829

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Brief Statement of Faith)

***We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.***

***Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.***

***We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.***

***Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.***