

PALM SUNDAY
March 29, 2015
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE	<i>Improvisations on “Valet will ich dir geben”</i>	Manz Jay Whatley, Organist
INTROIT	<i>Hosanna, Loud Hosanna</i>	Martin Sanctuary Choir Dr. Terry Morris, Director of Music
INVOCATION		Rev. Ann Spears
*HYMN	<i>All Glory, Laud, and Honor</i>	arr. Buda & Hamilton
	All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King, To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring. Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David’s royal Son, Who in the Lord’s name comest, the King and Blessed One. <i>Choir Only</i> <i>The company of angels are praising Thee on high. Let mortal men and all things created make reply. The people of Jerusalem with palms before Thee went. Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.</i> To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Thou didst accept their praises, accept the praise we bring. All glory, laud, and honor Thou good and gracious King.	
LIFE OF THE CHURCH		Dr. Steve Wende
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM		(11:00 a.m.)
	With God’s help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Annabelle Elizabeth Siesennop with a community of love and forgiveness that she may grow in her trust of God and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.	
SUNG RESPONSE	<i>I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry</i>	
	"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold."	
THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST	†	Dubois
INTRODUCTION		Lamentations 1:12 <i>O all ye who travel upon the highway, hearken to me, and behold me: was e'er sorrow like unto my sorrow?</i> <i>For the Lord Almighty hath dealt bitterly with me. Call me now no more Naomi, from today call me Mara.</i> Cynthia Douglas, soprano
FIRST WORD		Luke 23:32-38 <i>Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And the people clamor’d: He is death-guilty, take him, take him, let us crucify him! Be his blood on us, and on our children! Then they did crucify Jesus, and the two thieves, one at His right hand, the other at His left hand.</i> John Arnold, baritone, Dr. John Weinel, tenor Sanctuary Choir

SECOND WORD	Luke 23:39-43 <i>Verily, thou shalt be in Paradise today with me. Amen, so I tell thee. Hear me, O Lord, and remember me, when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.</i> Dr. John Weinel; John Arnold Sanctuary Choir
THIRD WORD	John 19:26-27 <i>See, O woman! Here behold thy Son beloved. See yon mother, bow’d in anguish, who beside the cross doth languish, where on high her son is borne; is there mortal, who not feeleth to behold her where she kneeleth, so woeful, and all forlorn?</i> John Arnold, Cynthia Douglas, Dr. John Weinel Sanctuary Choir
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Rev. Charles Thompson
FOURTH WORD	Matthew 27:45 – 46 <i>God, my Father, why hast Thou forsaken me? All those who were my friends, all have now forsaken me, and they that hate me do now prevail against me; and he whom I have cherished, he hath betray’d me. Even the vine that I have chosen, and that I have planted: wherefore art thou now so strangely turned into bitterness, that I by thee am crucified?</i> John Arnold
FIFTH WORD	John 19:28-29 <i>I am athirst! And the Jews then passing by him, all did rail upon him, and wagging their heads at him, they said unto him: Ah! Thou wouldst fain destroy the temple; if thou be Jesus, Son of the Father, now from the cross descend thou, that we behold it, and believe on thee when we behold it. If thou art king over Israel, save thyself, then!</i> John Arnold, Dr. John Weinel Sanctuary Choir
SIXTH WORD	John 19:30 <i>Father, into thy hands I commend my soul. For Thou art my God and my Father; Thou art my Saviour. Into Thy hands I commend my soul.</i> Dr. John Weinel Sanctuary Choir
SEVENTH WORD	Luke 23:44-46 <i>And with a loud voice Jesus cried, exclaiming: It is finished! And He did bow His head, and rendered up His spirit. And it was about the sixth hour; and the sun was darkened, and darkness covered the earth, until about the ninth hour; and the veil of the temple was rent, and all the earth did quake; and the rocks were rent and all the graves were opened wide.</i> Prayer. <i>Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee for ever; for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.</i> Cynthia Douglas, John Arnold, Dr. John Weinel Sanctuary Choir
*SENDING FORTH	Dr. Steve Wende
*SUNG RESPONSE	<i>What Wondrous Love is This</i> arr. Harlan
	What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down, sinking down. When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul. God laid aside His crown for my soul.

POSTLUDE	<i>Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen</i> <i>(Ah, Holy Jesus, what law hast Thou broken?)</i> Jay Whatley, Organist	Brahms
	<i>* Please stand, as you are able</i> † <i>The text of <u>The Seven Last Words of Christ</u> is written in the style of the King James Version of the Holy Bible.</i>	
	Violin Rodica Gonzalez Mihaela Frusina Evgenia Zharzhavskaya Shana Bey	ORCHESTRA Cello Jeffrey Butler Bass David Malone Flute Matthew Roitstein Oboe Jonathan Fischer Harp Laura Witt Timpani Lovie Smith-Wright
	PROCESSION WITH PALMS Christopher George portrayed Jesus. NEW MEMBERS William Goyne Bruce & Lacra Hudson ACOLYTES Lindsey Harris, Jr. Austin Ishee ALTAR FLOWERS The altar palms are given in honor of the retired pastors volunteering their time in the ministry of the church: Rev. Sara Owen-Gemotes, Dr. Richard Jenkins, Dr. J. D. Phillips, Rev. Horace Winn, and Rev. John Onstott. CLERGY ON-CALL Rev. Ann Spears, 832-668-1800, option 7 <i>Service of Healing and Communion in the Chapel, 12:05 p.m.</i> <i>Assisted Listening Devices are available from the sound console.</i>	
	JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES Holy Thursday, April 2, at 12:00 p.m. in our beautiful sanctuary. Dr. Terry Morris, Director of Music, Jay Whatley, organist, and soloists will provide special music for a communion service that will set the mood for us to remember our Lord’s Last Supper. Good Friday, April 3, at 12:00 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir will present music by John Leavitt, <i>Calvary’s Mountain, A Cantata for Passiontide</i> , with readings from Holy Scripture. The congregation will surely remember how our Lord suffered on our behalf during this stunning service of familiar hymns and poignant originals in a service of darkness. Easter Sunday, April 5, at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. A brass ensemble , bells and timpani will join forces with the Sanctuary Choir to present uplifting services complete with processions, liturgical dance, and congregational singing. Choir and congregation will surely lift their voices in praise of our risen King!	
	EASTER OFFERING Christ is blessing First Methodist Houston as we serve children, youth, the elderly, the needy and our community in His love. We want to make a special effort to continue to share His blessing with others. Please write “Easter Offering” on the bottom of your check. Easter envelopes are available in the pews. All gifts received will go to serve others in the name of the Risen Christ.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISIT EGYPT AND SINAI WITH JIM FLEMING IN 2016

Join us Jan. 23 – Feb. 6, 2016, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Explorations in Antiquity Center with a Nile cruise! Rev. Ann and Max Spears will host the First Methodist group. For more information contact Rev. Ann Spears at 832-668-1853 or aspears@fmhouston.com, or Judy Saenz at 832-668-1836 or jsaenz@fmhouston.com.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

30th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza, 1:00 -3:00 p.m. on Easter, April 5, at the Westchase campus! We will have a fun-filled afternoon with family-friendly activities, food trucks, Kona Ice and more! Candy and egg donations are needed. Collection boxes are located Downtown, at Westchase, Wesley Academy, and Quillian.

EVENTS: For more information or to register for any of these events, please contact Judy Saenz at 832.668.1836, or jsaenz@fmhouston.com.

Life Line Health Screening April 15. Affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings will be offered at the Downtown campus. Appointments are required. Call 1.888.653.6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners to register.

Round Top: A Visionary & Four Legacies Wednesday, April 22, we will tour Winedale and the Festival Hill Institute Complex. Cost is only \$15 plus your lunch expense.

Peckerwood Garden May 13 we will travel to Peckerwood Garden near Hempstead. The garden features more than 3,000 plants from Mexico, Asia, and the United States, many of which are no longer found in the wild. We will have lunch at the Bluebonnet Herb Farm Café at your own expense, and then you will have time to stroll through the garden and shop for antiques, collectibles, and gifts. The cost for this day trip is \$20, and is limited to the first 20 people who make reservations with Judy Saenz. Registration deadline is Monday, May 4.

MISSIONS

STARR Test Bags Today, after the 11 a.m. service, we will be assembling snack bags for the children at Port Houston Elementary school for their STARR test. Please stay for a moment and make a bag and encourage a child.

Mission Trips It's not too late to join our mission teams going to Eagle Pass (April 22-25), Nicaragua (June 15-21) and Guatemala (June 27-July 4). You can make a difference in the lives of people in need and let God renew your relationship with Him, in the process. Contact Kaylie Mims, kmims@fmhouston.com.

Change The World Sunday Make plans to join us on April 26th, as we serve the city together, after church for our annual Change The World Sunday. We will have projects available around the city. More info to come!

Arts and Music Teachers, we need you! Neighbors in Action will host a four-week Arts Academy in Port Houston July 13 - August 6, and we need volunteers to teach painting, crafts, music or theater lessons each Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you can commit for one week or even one day, please contact Sandra Roberson at 713.557.9650 or sroberson@fmhouston.com.

Volunteers needed in Port Houston! We are currently looking for regular volunteers for our kids and youth programs. No Spanish required! If God is calling you to serve in Port Houston and you can commit to volunteer on a regular basis, please contact Kathrin Meier at 832.343.8105 or kmeier@fmhouston.com.

Looking for Youth Coordinator Neighbors in Action is looking for a part-time youth coordinator for its Port Houston ministry. Requirements: a strong passion for underprivileged teenagers and Spanish knowledge. Candidate can be college student or recent graduate. For more information, please contact Kathrin Meier at kmeier@fmhouston.com.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

There will be no weekday Bible study this week. Tuesday Bible Study will return on April 7 with *Breath* by Beth Moore. This is a study reflecting on the person, the work, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Thursday Bible Study will resume on April 9 with Allen Houk's study of Ephesians.

GOLF TOURNAMENT MAY 4

Quillian Center's Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser on May 4 will support summer camp opportunities and the Quillian Recreation Ministries. The tournament will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Sharpstown Golf Course. Please consider taking the morning off from work and join us for a beautiful day on the links! If you don't play golf, please consider becoming a sponsor. For more information, or to register for the tournament, contact Tom Gaden at 713.458.4705 or tgaden@fmhouston.com.