

SANCTUARY WORSHIP
May 1, 2016
8:45 a.m.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”
Psalm 133:1

PRELUDE	<i>Partita on LOBE DEN HERREN</i> Jay Whatley, organist	Charles Callahan
INTROIT	<i>All That Hath Life and Breath</i> Sanctuary Choir Dr. Terry Morris, Director of Music	René Clausen

*CREDO Ken Coneby
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic[†] church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
[†]Apostolic and Universal

*GLORIA PATRI #70
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.

*INVOCATION Ken Coneby
Director of Small Groups

*HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* #139
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigning
Bears thee on eagle’s wings, e’er in His keeping maintaining.
God’s care enfolds all, whose true good He upholds.
Hast thou not known His sustaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
Fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
Spreading the wings of grace o’er thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore him.

*CHRIST’S INVITATION Rev. Charles Thompson
Leader: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sins and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved You with our whole hearts. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will; we have broken Your law; we have rebelled against Your love; we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*CONGREGATION RESPONSE *Lamb of God*
Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side,
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood –
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Ann Spears

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*HYMN *One Bread, One Body* #620
Refrain
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man, no more.

Repeat Refrain

Many the gifts, many the works,
One in the Lord of all.

Repeat Refrain

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, for all.

Repeat Refrain

*OFFERTORY PRAYER Dr. Richard Jenkins

THE WORD IN SONG *And Can it Be* Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir
This anthem was donated to First Methodist Houston to honor the birthday of Cynthia Douglas by her husband, Dr. Terry Morris.
*And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me?
He left His Father’s throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam’s helpless race;*

*‘Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.
And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown through Christ my own.
Amazing love, how can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?*

*THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE Emily Aldis
Psalm 133 Page 543, O.T. Pew Bible
This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE Rev. Ann Spears
*Celebrating the Body of Christ:
The Blessings of Life Together*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF COMMUNION
You are invited to come forward to take communion. For those who may have difficulty coming to the altar to take communion, or if you prefer a gluten free communion wafer, please notify one of our ushers.

COMMUNION MUSIC *A Simple Song* from *Mass* Leonard Bernstein
Kelli Estes, Soloist
*Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laude
Make it up as you go along: Laua Laude
Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things,
For God is the simplest of all.
I will sing the Lord a new song to praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing His praises while I live all of my days.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, blessed is the man who praises Him.
Lauda Lauda Laude, and walks in His ways.
I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help.
I will lift up my voice to the Lord singing Lauda, Laude.
For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand,
And the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, Lauda Lauda Laude,
And walks in His ways.*

One Bread, One Body arr. Mark Hayes
Jay Whatley, Pianist

THE LORD’S PRAYER, Matthew 6:9-13 arr. Albert Hay Malotte
**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.**

*BENEDICTION Rev. John Onstott

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Christ is Alive* #318
**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.**

POSTLUDE *Recessional on SAGINA: And Can It Be* Anna Laura Page
Jay Whatley, organist

* Please stand, as you are able.

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Abby Aldis	Celeste Lay	Jonathan Sampson
Cole Harrison	Stephen Lisko	Kaylee Sarton
Julia Hodge	Max Roberson	Jordan Schumann

NEW MEMBERS

Michael and Dixie Ford

ACOLYTES

Sam Montgomery Caleb McClure

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of Juanita Ramirez’ birthday by her daughter, Hope Webber.

CRUCIFER

Hannah McClure

CLERGY ON-CALL

Rev. Charles Thompson, 832.668.1800, option 7

- *Service of Healing in the Chapel, 12:05 p.m.*
- *Assisted Listening Devices are available from the sound console.*
- *iPads, tablets and cell phones are welcome! Take notes and text points from the message to your friends. Just put your device on “silent.”*

THE BATON ON THE ALTAR

A relay race is run by sprinters who each cover one section of a track. When one runner is about to complete their section, they will pass a baton to the next runner. Even though they run different sections of a race, the goal of a team is the same: to cross the finish line and win the race. The green baton on the altar symbolizes the transition that First Methodist Houston is undergoing with the departure of Dr. Steve Wende and the arrival of Pastor Andy Nixon. Both of them can say with Paul, “My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.” (Acts 20:24)

BAPTISMAL WATER AND SPIKENARD OIL

As you leave the Sanctuary today, dip your fingers into the water and remember the baptism that brought you into community of Christ. The bowls are located in the center balcony on the ushers’ table, the Main Street exit and the shelf as you exit to go to the lobby.

The oil that you were given today was donated in honor of the Women of First Methodist Houston who are *a sweet aroma of Christ to God* (2 Cor 2:15).

LET’S READ BOOK CLUB

Monday, May 2, Linda Trekell will review The Great Divide by Davis Bunn in the Youth Room on the 5th floor at noon.