

SERVICE OF THE WORD
First Methodist Church Houston, Downtown Traditional Service
February 12, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE

Litanies

Jehan Alain

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lift Every Voice and Sing (verse 1)

UMH 519

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise
high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

WELCOME

Rev. Ann Spears

HYMN OF WELCOME

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

UMH 110

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.**

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Rev. Lance Richards

Jett David Spiciarich (*Damian and Megan Spiciarich, parents*)

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Jett in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Jett with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Eternal Father...that we may share in his final victory. **Amen.**

Members of the household of God ...confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and of First Methodist Houston we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in and build up the mission and ministries of the church by offering our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace...that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 1)

UMH 611

**Child of blessing, child of promise baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Quillian Center Video

First Choice

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Rev. Ann Spears

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

Amazing Grace: My Chains Are Gone

arr. Joel Raney

Sanctuary Choir

In memory of Marion Freeman

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see, now I see, now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

My chains are gone; I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,

and like a flood, His mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,

and like a flood, His mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone; I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,

and like a flood, His mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace,

unending love, amazing grace.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

Rev. Ann Spears

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.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

UMH 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.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

First Choice/Children's Ministry Staff

HYMN OF PREPARATION We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

UMH 418

**We are climbing Jacob's ladder; we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
we are climbing Jacob's ladder; soldiers of the cross.**

**Every round goes higher, higher; every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher; soldiers of the cross.**

Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Sinner, do you love my Jesus?

Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Soldiers of the cross.

If you love Him, why not serve Him? If you love Him, why not serve Him?

If you love Him, why not serve Him? Soldiers of the cross.

We are climbing higher, higher; we are climbing higher, higher,

We are climbing higher, higher; soldiers of the cross.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-40

Rev. Lance Richards

The word of God for us the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Providing Compassionate Care

Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER

Hannaniah Pinto

THE LORD’S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

Hannaniah Pinto

Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 ALTAR

Rev. Lance Richards

HYMN OF BLESSING

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

UMH 584

**Lord, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.
Lord, you call us to your service: “In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy: “This my body, this my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children’s liberty.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you who us love’s true measure: “Father what they do forgive.”
Yet, we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the care that claim us, hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

We are the Church (refrain & verse 1)

UMH 558

Refrain: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

**The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place, the church is a people. *(repeat refrain)***

POSTLUDE:

Dance Toccata

Naji Hakim

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given by
the Adelphi Class, in honor of their 76th Anniversary.

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Rev. Amanda Davis

DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Dr. Terry Morris

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Cynthia Douglas

ORGAN

Paul Butt

PIANO

Jeremy Wood