

SERVICE OF THE WORD
First Methodist Church Houston, Downtown Traditional Service
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 | 12:00 pm

PRELUDE	Prelude on "Land of Rest"	<i>Charles Callahan</i>
THE GATHERING		Rev. Amanda Davis
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Davis
OPENING PRAYER		Rev. Amanda Davis
HYMN OF WELCOME	Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days	UMH 269
	Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.	
	As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.	
	As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy word.	
	And through these days of penitence, and through Thy passion-tide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.	
	Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.	
OLD TESTAMENT READING	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17a	Rev. Amanda Davis
EPISTLE READING	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2	Rev. Amanda Davis
RESPONSE TO THE WORD		Rev. Amanda Davis
	Cry, and God will answer.	
	Call, and the Lord will say: "I am here."	
	If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word; if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed;	
	Call, and the Lord will say: "I am here."	
	You light will rise in the darkness and your shadows become like noon. The Lord will always guide you, giving you relief in desert places.	
	Cry, and God will answer.	
	Call, and the Lord will say: "I am here."	
HYMN OF PREPARATION	Jesus, Remember Me	UMH 488
	Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.	
GOSPEL READING	Luke 4:1-13	Rev. Lance Richards
MESSAGE	Into the Wilderness	Rev. Lance Richards
INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE		
THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES		
THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AT THE ALTAR		
ALTAR MUSIC	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian	UMH 402
	Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.	
	Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.	

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

UMH 382

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Savior today!

Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now, As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me I pray!

Power, all power, surely is Thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway.

Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

UMH 357

Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be Thine, yea Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I Surrender All

UMH 354

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet I bow,
worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]

All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine. [Refrain]

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power; let thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]

All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to his name! [Refrain]

A PSALM OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51:1-17

Rev. Lance Richards

SUNG RESPONSE

Remember Me

UMH 491

Remember me, remember me, O Lord, remember me.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgment.

**Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have been sinful
since my mother conceived me.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Remember Me

UMH 491

Remember me, remember me, O Lord, remember me.

Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my
secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than
snow.**

Make me hear with joy and gladness; let the bones which you have broken rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

SUNG RESPONSE

Remember Me

UMH 491

Remember me, remember me, O Lord, remember me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of
your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be
pleased.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O
God, you will not despise.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Remember Me

UMH 491

Remember me, remember me, O Lord, remember me.

ABSOLUTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

Rev. Lance Richards

**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.**

HYMN

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

UMH 2129

**I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus - no turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me - no turning back, no turning back.**

**Though none go with me, still I will follow, though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow— no turning back, no turning back.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

POSTLUDE:

Chorale Prelude on "O Man Bewail Thy Grievous Sin"

J. S. Bach

SENIOR PASTOR

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

PASTOR

DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC Cynthia Douglas

ORGAN

SOLOIST

Rev. Lance Richards

Rev. Amanda Davis

Rev. Ken Coneby

Dr. Terry Morris

Paul Butt

Kelli Estes