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

PRELUDE Prelude in C Minor J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP Come Out the Wilderness UMH 416

Refrain: I am leaning on the Lord, I am leaning on the Lord,

I am leaning on the Lord, who died on Calvary.

Tell me, how did you feel when you come out, come out the wilderness, come out the wilderness? Tell me, how did you feel when you come out come out the wilderness, leaning on the Lord? (repeat refrain)

WELCOME Rev. Ann Spears

HYMN OF WELCOME Great Is Thy Faithfulness UMH 140

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (repeat refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (repeat refrain)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Youth Stock Kickoff Rev. Ann Spears

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Ann Spears

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

The Alabaster Jar

Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir

The scent of oil fills the house, in joyful celebration; sweet scent of faith, balm of belief, a gift for him whose name is Love. The fragrance lingers on his robe, in somber preparation; anointing oil of purest nard, a gift for him whose name is Love. Lord, make a vessel of my heart filled with the fragrance of your mercy, the scent of love and of grace, the oil of pardon and of peace, that I may pour it at your feet.

Her gift was love, poured out in joy, an act of adoration; a deed to echo through the years, a gift of love, poured from an alabaster jar.

OFFERING RESPONSE When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, (v. 4) UMH 298 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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

Communications/Children's Ministry Staff

HYMN OF PREPARATION Were You There? (refrain 1, v 2, refrain 2) UMH 288

Refrain 1: Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Refrain 2: Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17:1-7

Rev. Lance Richards

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rest

Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lance Richards

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.

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR

Rev. Lance Richards

HYMN OF BLESSING

O Love that Wilt not Let Me Go

UMH 480

O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow thru the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Lance Richards

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

BENEDICTION RESPONSE I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (v. 2)

UMH 2129

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.

POSTLUDE Fantasia Denis Bedard

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given In honor of the 29th anniversary of Crystal and Richard Smith.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

SENIOR PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
ORGAN
PIANO

Rev. Lance Richards Rev. Ann Spears Dr. Terry Morris Cynthia Douglas Paul Butt Jeremy Wood