

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
<i>Refrain: I am leaning on the Lord, I am leaning on the Lord, I am leaning on the Lord, who died on Calvary.</i>		
Tell me, how did you feel when you come out, come out the wilderness, 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? <i>(repeat refrain)</i>		
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.		
<i>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!</i>		
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. <i>(repeat refrain)</i>		
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! <i>(repeat refrain)</i>		
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Youth Stock Kickoff	Rev. Ann Spears
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Ann Spears
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	The Alabaster Jar Sanctuary Choir	Craig Courtney
<i>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.</i>		
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		

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.

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?

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.

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.

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	Rev. Lance Richards
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	Rev. Ann Spears
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Dr. Terry Morris
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Cynthia Douglas
ORGAN	Paul Butt
PIANO	Jeremy Wood