# SERVICE OF THE WORD First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service April 23, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE	Hymn Medley	Diane Bish
CALL TO WORSHIPHail Thee, Festival Day (R, v2, R)UMH 324Refrain (for Easter): Hail thee, festival day! blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.UMH 324		
<i>Verse 2 (for Easter):</i> Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation. Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all.		
<i>Refrain (for Easter):</i> Hail thee, festival day! blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.		
WELCOME		Dr. Brant Wallace
HYMN OF WELCOME Christ Is Alive UMH 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.   Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,		
He comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.		
Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, But daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.		
In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, He suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.		
Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, Till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.		
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Recognition and Blessing of Graduating Seniors	Rev. Amanda Davis and Kristen Jones
OFFERING PRAYER		Dr. Brant Wallace
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO	GOD	Ushers and Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSICMercy Treearr. Bradley KnightSanctuary Choir, Taylor Surratt, SoloistOn a hill called Calvary there stands an endless mercy tree.Every broken weary soul, find your rest and be made whole.Stripes of blood that stain its frame shed to wash away our shame.From the scars, pure love released, salvation by the mercy tree.In the sky between two thieves hung the blameless Prince of Peace,Bruised and battered, scarred and scorned, sacred head pierced by our thorns."It is finished," was His cry. The perfect Lamb was crucified.The sacrifice, our victory; our Savior chose the mercy tree.Hope went dark that violent day. The whole earth quaked at Love's display.Three days silent in the ground, this body born for heaven's crown.On that bright and glorious day Heaven opened up the grave:He's alive and risen indeed! O praise Him for the mercy tree!Death has died, love has won. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!Jesus Christ has overcome; He has risen from the dead.One day soon we'll see His face and every tear, He'll wipe away.No more pain or suffering: O praise Him for the mercy tree!Death has died, love has won. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!Jesus Christ has overcome; He has risen from the dead.		
*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 94 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!		

power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 **Courtney Hutchins** \*HYMN OF PREPARATION Here I am, Lord **UMH 593** I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (sing refrain) I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (sing refrain) SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 31:1-3a, 6-8 Rev. Amanda Davis The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! MESSAGE The Lord Is With You Wherever You Go Rev. Amanda Davis PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN) Rev. Amanda Davis 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. Amanda Davis \*HYMN OF BLESSING Lead On, O King Eternal UMH 580 Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home. Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong; and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song. Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace. For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums; with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes. Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears. Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light; the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might. **\*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH** Rev. Amanda Davis

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Davis Rev. Amanda Davis

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand (Refrain) UMH 724 *Refrain:* I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land; Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

#### POSTLUDE

## Festival Voluntary

**Flor Peeters** 

ALTAR FLOWERS The flowers on the altar today are given by Sandra Miller in memory of her husband, Charles Miller.

Diego Civallero Christian Fridge Shaun Gutierrez Austin Letterman Christopher Massy FUMC 2023 GRADUATING SENIORS Caleb McClure Janeen Mendoza Sam Montgomery Chloe Morse Jacob Moore Marta Myers

William Nguyen Aditya Singh Evania Shibu Kaylee Walker Sydney Welch

### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

EXECUTIVE PASTOR VICE CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC ORGAN PIANO Rev. Amanda Davis Dr. Brant Wallace Dr. Terry Morris Cynthia Douglas Paul Butt Jeremy Wood