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

PRELUDE For God So Loved the World *arr. Mickelson and Wyrtzen*

Oh, How He Loves You and Me arr. Fred Bock

CALL TO WORSHIP My Tribute UMH 99

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things he has done. With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me, to God be the glory for the things he has done.

*WELCOME Rev. Ann Spears

*HYMN OF WELCOME Lord, Whose Love UMH 581

Through Humble Service (verses 1-3)

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.

As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Commissioning of Stephen Leaders Rev. Lance Richards
Ann Gibson & Rev. Ann Spears

Pastor: Members of First Methodist Houston, will you open your hearts to Ann's ministry as a Stephen Leader and to these Stephen Ministers who stand before you today and commit to pray for them as fellow servants of Christ?

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Ann Spears

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Rev. Ann Spears

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Hallelujah from Ludwig von Beethoven

The Mount of Olives Sanctuary Choir

Hallelujah unto God's Almighty Son.

Praise the Lord, ye bright angelic choirs, In holy songs of joy.

Man, proclaim His grace and glory! Hallelujah! unto God's Almighty Son.

Praise the Lord in holy songs of joy.

*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

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 VBS Leader Commissioning Courtney Hutchins

& Rev. Lance Richards

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 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. (sing 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! (sing refrain)

*SCRIPTURE Acts 5:12-42 Rev. Lance Richards

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE Tell People Everything Rev. Lance Richards

About this New Life in Christ

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lance Richards

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH 895) (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 Victory in Jesus UMH 370

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory, how he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me; I heard about his groaning, of his precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

Refrain: O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever. He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood; he loved me ere I knew him and all my love is due him, he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about his healing, of his cleansing power revealing, how he made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see; and then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit," and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory. (sing refrain)

I heard about a mansion he has built for me in glory,

and I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea; about the angels singing, and the old redemption story, and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory. (sing refrain)

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (v. 4)

UMH 581

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

POSTLUDE Fantasy on Sine nomine

Michael Bedford

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Darleen Schauer by the Sanctuary Choir to recognize her 50 years of service to the music ministry

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

SENIOR PASTOR
EXECUTIVE 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