SERVICE OF THE WORD First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service August 13, 2023 | 11:00 am

Prelude on the hymn tune HYFRYDOL	Hayes and Gaspard
ory, honor, and praise. authority, he unto his own; his anthem raise. high, the name of Jesus. rify Christ Jesus the King. his majesty,	UMH 176
	Kristen Jones
nited to serve one common Lord, message, with hearts in glad accord. fore us; we follow, day by day	UMH 547
t leader they come from far and near. ne confession, they praise one living L	
Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ, of thee; and in thy loving spirit we shall one people be. Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.	
May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son: to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright, that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.	
Packing and Delivery of Backpacks	Kristen Jones
	Kristen Jones
ro god	Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC This is My Father's World by Elaine Hagenberg Sanctuary Choir; Ivy Kubin, Violin This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought. This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere. This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world: the battle is not done. Jesus who died will be satisfied, and heaven and earth be one.	
	his majesty; lory, honor, and praise. authority, he unto his own; his anthem raise. high, the name of Jesus. rify Christ Jesus the King. his majesty, bw glorified, King of all kings. O Church of God, United inited to serve one common Lord, e message, with hearts in glad accord. efore us; we follow, day by day nger footsteps along the upward way. hd nation the ordered ranks appear; ht leader they come from far and near. he confession, they praise one living Live dependence upon his saving word. It tongues may differ, they speak, O Ch pirit we shall one people be. hful service and singleness of aim power of thy redeeming name. yer be answered that we may all be or ve united in thee, God's blessed Son: itness, to make the pathway bright, rope in darkness may find the one true Packing and Delivery of Backpacks TO GOD This is My Father's World sanctuary Choir; Ivy Kubin, Violin s is my Father's world. I rest me in the trees, of skies and seas; his hand the v is my Father's world. I rest me in the trees, of skies and seas; his hand the v is my Father's world. I rest me in the trees, of skies and seas; his hand the v is my Father's world. O let me ne'er gh the wrong seems oft so strong, God his is my Father's world. O let me ne'er gh the wrong seems oft so strong, God his is my Father's world: the battle is no

*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 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.

TTIME FOR CHILDREN (VIDEO)

UMH 70

UMH 539

Courtney Hutchins

*HYMN OF PREPARATION O Spirit of the Living God O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine, descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine. Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace; till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee. Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal, to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal. Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear, the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear; till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one, and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save; so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave; and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole; till perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

*SCRIPTURE Acts 15:1-35 Rev. Lance Richards The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! MESSAGE Entering into the Messiness Rev. Lance Richards of Mission and Ministry 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. **Rev. Lance Richards**

*HYMN OF BLESSING Here I Am, Lord 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?

UMH 593

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR

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) ***STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Lance Richards** *BENEDICTION **Rev. Lance Richards** *BENEDICTION RESPONSE There's Something About That Name UMH 171 Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There's just something about that name! Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim: Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, But there's something about that name! POSTLUDE Toccata on the hymn tune EBENEZER Benjamin Culli ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Tom Speed on his birthday, by his wife, Carol.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS: ORGANIST DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC SENIOR PASTOR PIANIST

Paul Butt Kristen Jones Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood