SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service September 3, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE Gigue Fugue by J. S. Bach

*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. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF WELCOME Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee UMH 89

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.

Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Walk to Emmaus Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Great is Thy Faithfulness arr. by Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir
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.
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.
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!

Ten thousand beside, ten thousand beside.

Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
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! Lord unto me! Amen.

*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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Amanda Davis

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Amanda Davis & Congregation

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved you with our whole hearts. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Amanda Davis & Congregation

Leader: Hear the good news... ...in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and People: Glory to God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Because He Lives (Refrain) UMH 364

Refrain: Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;

because he lives, all fear is gone, because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

TIME FOR CHILDREN (Live) Courtney Hutchins

*SCRIPTURE Ephesians 3:14-21 Rev. Lance Richards

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

MESSAGE God First! Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lance Richards

*HYMN OF PREPARATION O How I Love Jesus UMH 170

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain: O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free; it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. (sing refrain)

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe; who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. (sing refrain)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Rev. Amanda Davis and Rev. Lance Richards

Leader: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Leader ...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Leader and People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Leader:...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Leader and People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: ... all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Leader and People: Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. by Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth; and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me; and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me. The King of love my shepherd is, my shepherd is the King of love, and so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SONG

by Albert Hay Malotte

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Freely, Freely (v 1)

UMH 389

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus' name, and in Jesus' name I come to you, to share his love as he told me to.

Refrain: He said, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give. Go in my name and because you believe, others will know that I live."

POSTLUDE

O Church of God United

arr. by Albert Travis

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Crystal Smith on her birthday by her husband, Richard Smith.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
SENIOR PASTOR
PIANO

Paul Butt Rev. Amanda Davis Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood

^{*}Please stand as you are able.