

SERVICE OF THE WORD
First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service
September 17, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE	Prière à Notre-Dame	<i>by Léon Boëllmann</i>
*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		Dr. Brant Wallace
*HYMN OF WELCOME	How Firm a Foundation	UMH 529
	How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?	
	"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."	
	"When through deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."	
	"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."	
	"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."	
	"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."	
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Wesley Community Center	Dr. Brant Wallace
OFFERING PRAYER		Dr. Brant Wallace
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	All Things New Sanctuary Choir	<i>by Elaine Hagenberg</i>
	Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross; Sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wandering, praise after tears, Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new. Springs of living water shall wash away each tear, he is making all things new. Sight after mystery, oh sun after rain, joy after sorrow, peace after pain. Near after distant, gleam after gloom, love after loneliness, life after tomb. Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new. Springs of living water shall wash away each tear, he is making all things new.	
*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 (VIDEO) Courtney Hutchins

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Wonderful Words of Life UMH 600
**Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.**
*Refrain: Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.*
**Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. (sing refrain)**

**Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. (sing refrain)**

*SCRIPTURE Romans 8:18-28 Rev. Amanda Davis
The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE Overcoming the Poverty of Stewardship 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 For the Healing of the Nations UMH 428
**For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.**
**Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.**

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Amanda Davis

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Davis

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Freely, Freely, v. 1 and refrain

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

March of the Priests

by Felix Mendelssohn

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Allen Houk
by the Adelphi Class, with gratitude for the 17 years he served as our teacher.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Rev. Amanda Davis

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN

Courtney Hutchins

DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Dr. Terry Morris

VICE CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Dr Brant Wallace

PIANIST

Jeremy Wood