SERVICE OF THE WORD First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service October 22, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified arr. by Fred Bock

CHORAL PRELUDE Suscepit Israel J.S. Bach

Davis Scholars and Teachers, Jack McCorquodale, Violin

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Seek Ye First UMH 405

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!

*WELCOME Rev. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF WELCOME Heralds of Christ UMH 567

Heralds of Christ, who bear the King's commands, immortal tidings in your mortal hands, pass on and carry swift the news you bring; make straight, make straight the highway of the King.

Through desert ways, dark fen, and deep morass, through jungles, sluggish seas, and mountain pass, build now the road, and falter not, nor stay; prepare across the earth the King's highway.

Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build, to see the promise of the day fulfilled, when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Local Missions Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC The Blessing by Heather Sorenson

Sanctuary Choir; Amy Moore and Greg Moore, Soloists The Lord bless you and keep you,

make his face shine upon you, be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen, amen.

May his favor be upon you, and a thousand generations, and your family and your children, and their children, and their children.

May his presence go before you and behind you, and beside you, all around you, and within you, he is with you.

In the morning, in the evening, in your coming and your going, in your weeping and rejoicing, he is for you.

The Lord bless you and keep you,

make his face shine upon you, be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen, 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

*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.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION O Jesus, I have Promised

UMH 396

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will. O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

*SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 Rev. Lance Richards

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

MESSAGE Excel in Generosity Rev. Lance Richards

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.

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR

Rev. Lance Richards

UMH 571

*HYMN OF BLESSING Go, Make of All Disciples

"Go, make of all disciples." We hear the call, O Lord, that comes from thee, our Father, in thy eternal Word. Inspire our ways of learning through earnest, fervent prayer, and let our daily living reveal thee everywhere.

"Go, make of all disciples," baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, from age to age the same. We call each new disciple to follow thee, O Lord, Redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.

"Go, make of all disciples." We at thy feet would stay until each life's vocation accents thy holy way. We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart, revealing in our witness the master teacher's art.

"Go, make of all disciples." We welcome thy command. "Lo, I am with you always." We take thy guiding hand.

The task looms large before us; we follow without fear; in heaven and earth thy power shall bring God's kingdom here.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Great Is Thy Faithfulness (refrain) UMH 140

*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.

POSTLUDE Gigue Fugue by J. S. Bach

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of our dear sister Helen Schauer-Hallas by Darleen, Leroy and Charles Schauer.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
SENIOR PASTOR
PIANIST

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