SERVICE OF THE WORD nurch, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service

First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service October 29, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE Chorale Fantasy on A Mighty Fortress by Michael Bedford

*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 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

UMH 110

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Rev. Lance Richards

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 1)

UMH 400

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Name of Candidate: Emmeline Ruth Davis Name of Parents: Rachel and Rhys Davis

...do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Emmeline in your care? With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Emmeline with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

...confirm her hope, and perfect her in love. We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and of First Methodist Houston we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in and build up the mission and ministries of the church by offering our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

SUNG RESPONSE Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 3)

UMH 400

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Commitment Sunday Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Praise to the Lord, the Almighty by F. M. Christiansen Sanctuary Choir

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Join me in glad adoration, glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

*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 Open My Eyes, That I May See UMH 454
Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

*SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Rev. Lance Richards

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

MESSAGE Overflow in Thanksgiving to God 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

*HYMN OF BLESSING Lift High the Cross UMH 159

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine. (sing refrain)

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died. (sing refrain)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. (sing refrain)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:

Praise to the Crucified for victory! (sing refrain)

*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 your hand hath provided;

great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

POSTLUDE Rhapsody for All Hallows' Eve by Freddie Mercury

ALTAR FLOWERS

We thank Heights Floral Shop for providing our altar flowers today.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
TRADITIONAL MUSIC CHOIR DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
SENIOR PASTOR
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Paul Butt Rev. Amanda Davis Cynthia Douglas Courtney Hutchins Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood