

**SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE**  
**First United Methodist Church, Houston | West Campus Traditional Service**  
**January 7, 2024 | 9:00 am | Hinson Chapel**

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PRELUDE	We Three Kings	arr. Patti Drennan
*CALL TO WORSHIP	The First Noel	UMH 245
<p><b>The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.</b></p> <p><i>Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.</i></p> <p><b>They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p> <p><b>And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p> <p><b>This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p> <p><b>Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p>		
*WELCOME		Rev. Ann Spears
*CAROL OF WELCOME	We Three Kings	UMH 254
<p><b>We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.</b></p> <p><i>Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.</i></p> <p><b>Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p> <p><b>Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p> <p><b>Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p> <p><b>Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b></p>		
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	2024 Multiply Stewardship Campaign	Rev. Lance Richards
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Ann Spears
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation

We rode all night thro' fields of darkness,  
our guiding light, the eastern stars;  
we came to Bethlehem, we all were weary:  
we'd travelled far that night,  
We heard that here we'd find Messiah  
foretold by seers from days of old;  
We looked for palaces: and found a stable.  
Could it be here, so bare and cold?  
We entered in and there we saw him;  
it seemed we'd known him from long before.  
A child like any child, yet somehow different:  
The face of every child in him we saw the face of every child we saw.  
We brought him gifts and now we offered them,  
we knelt down low in silent prayer.  
With eyes that seem to know both joy and sadness;  
the child looked down as we knelt there.  
So long ago, yet I remember, that child who lay at Mary's knee.  
How strange that every child seemed so much like him;  
his is the face I seem to see.

\*OFFERING RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter (V 4)UMH 221

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

\*INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Lance Richards

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Lance Richards

*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. Lance Richards

*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.**

\*GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)

UMH 238

**Gloria, in excelsis deo. Gloria, in excelsis deo.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Mandy Jones

\*CAROL OF JOY

There's a Song in the Air (vs. 1, 2, and 4)

UMH 249

**There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!  
  
There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

*SCRIPTURE	Matthew 2:1-12	Rev. Lance Richards
The word of God for the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God!</b>		
MESSAGE	Joy Guides Us to Worship Jesus	Rev. Lance Richards
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Lance Richards
*CAROL OF PREPARATION	What Child is This?	UMH 219
<b>What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?</b>		
<b>Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?</b>		
<i>Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;</i>		
<i>haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.</i>		
<b>Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?</b>		
<b>Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b>		
<b>So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;</b>		
<b>the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. <i>(sing refrain)</i></b>		
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING	Rev. Ann Spears and Rev. Lance Richards	
The Lord be with you. <b>And also with you.</b>		
Lift up your hearts! <b>We lift them up to the Lord!</b>		
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! <b>It is right to give our thanks and praise!</b>		
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:		
<b>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!</b>		
<b>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!</b>		
...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:		
<b>Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.</b>		
...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. <b>Amen.</b>		
GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP		Congregation
COMMUNION MUSIC	My Lord Has Come	Will Todd
	Taylor Surratt, Soloist	
	Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels;	
	no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.	
	Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;	
	no place but a stable. My Lord has come.	
	His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.	
	Lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;	
	No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.	
*THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SONG		Albert Hay Malotte
<b>Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.</b>		
<b>Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.</b>		
<b>Give us this day our daily bread.</b>		
<b>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.</b>		
<b>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:</b>		
<b>For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.</b>		
*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH		Rev. Ann Spears

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go, Tell it on the Mountain (refrain)

UMH 251

*Refrain:* **Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;**

**Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude in B Major

*Marcel Dupre*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Ann Spears

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Cynthia Douglas

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY, WEST CAMPUS

Mandy Jones

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards