

**First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service**  
**December 10, 2023 | 11:00 am**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

Noel

*by Todd Smith*

Sanctuary Choir; Soloists: Anthony Perez, Tyler Perrine, Kim Burton,  
Kris Rodriguez, Wilson Cook, Jonathan Snowden, Robby Black,  
Tyler Surratt on Drum, Joel Morgan on Cowbell, Bridget Warren,  
Kammi Estelle, Taylor Surratt, David Watson  
Noel! Noel! Jesus has come to live with us.

If you want to know the Child, you have to come kneel.

OFFERING RESPONSE      O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 3)      UMH 230

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin;  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      The Nicene Creed      UMH 880

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only  
Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came  
down from heaven. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he  
suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance  
with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from  
the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy  
catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of  
the world to come. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE      Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)      UMH 238

**Gloria, in excelsis deo! Gloria, in excelsis deo!**

TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE)      Courtney Hutchins

\*CAROL OF PREPARATION O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1, 2, 4)      UMH 230

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!**

*SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11	Rev. Lance Richards
The word of God for the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God!</b>		
MESSAGE	Joy Rebuilds and Restores	Rev. Lance Richards
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Lance Richards
THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)		Rev. Lance Richards
<b>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.</b>		
INVITATION TO THE ALTAR		Rev. Lance Richards
*CAROL OF BLESSING	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	UMH 218
<b>It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.</b>		
<b>Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.</b>		
<b>And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!</b>		
<b>For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.</b>		
*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH		Rev. Lance Richards
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lance Richards

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE   Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (verse 2)   UMH 213**  
**Fling wide the portals of your heart;**  
**make it a temple, set apart**  
**from earthly use from heaven's employ,**  
**adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**POSTLUDE                                  Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 599                                  by J. S. Bach**

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<b>SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:</b>	
ORGANIST	Paul Butt
EXECUTIVE PASTOR	Rev. Amanda Davis
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN	Courtney Hutchins
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Dr. Terry Morris
SENIOR PASTOR	Rev. Lance Richards
PIANIST	Jeremy Wood