

SERVICE OF WORD & WATER
First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus | Traditional Service
January 14, 2024 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

PRELUDE Variations on "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" for Pedal Solo
Joyce Jones

CALL TO WORSHIP (SPOKEN) Mark 1:4-11
Rev. Lance Richards

*CALL TO WORSHIP (SUNG) When Jesus Came to Jordan
UMH 252

**When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.**

**He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.**

**So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us, and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most;
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.**

*WELCOME
Rev. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF WELCOME Wash O God, Our Sons and Daughters
UMH 605

**Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.**

**We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

**O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Student Ministry
Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING PRAYER
Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Crystal River
by Heather Sorenson

Sanctuary Choir

There's a River, pure and lovely, springing forth from realms unseen,
bearing joy through Heaven's City, raining grace on earth beneath.
Crystal River, water holy, where the whitest lily grows,
Crystal River, ever flowing from the Lamb and Father's throne.
Shining pools of peace and comfort, shimmering waves of sheer delight,
glorious fount of truth and counsel, gleaming depths of mercy bright.
Crystal River, water holy, where the whitest lily grows.
Crystal River, ever flowing from the Lamb and Father's throne.

In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on heaven's shore.
In the sweet by and by, we shall sing forevermore.
Here I come, for You have called me. Here I bathe my weary feet.
Here my heart is cleansed and strengthened; endless life wells up in me!
Crystal River, water holy, where the whitest lily grows,
Crystal River, ever flowing from the Lamb and Father's throne.
Crystal River, water holy, where the whitest lily grows,
Crystal River, ever flowing from the Lamb and Father's throne.

*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 (LIVE)
Courtney Hutchins

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Precious Lord Take My Hand with I Need Thee Every Hour
Mark Hayes

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone; hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord. No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

**I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior; I come to Thee, I come to Thee.**

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

CHOIR ONLY Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
I need Thee every hour, most precious Lord.

*SCRIPTURE Romans 12:1-2
Rev. Lance Richards
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Do Not Conform, Be Transformed!
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.

CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION

Rev. Lance Richards

OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

and

Rev. Amanda Davis

Leader: ...and so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

Congregation: **We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.**

Leader: Will you let the Holy Spirit use you as prophets to the powers of evil, injustice and oppression?

Congregation: **We accept the freedom and the power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.**

Leader: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ in union with the church, Christ's body on earth?

Congregation: **We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.**

Leader: According to the grace given to you, will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

Congregation: **We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Leader: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Congregation: **We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

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

MUSIC DURING REAFFIRMATION

Shall We Gather at the River

UMH 723

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

*Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

**On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (sing refrain)**

**Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (sing refrain)**

**Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (sing refrain)**

MUSIC DURING REAFFIRMATION

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

UMH 402

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more
loving in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to like Jesus in my heart (in my heart).

THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

Congregation: **We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members together 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.**

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Amanda Davis

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (v. 4)

UMH 581

**Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.**

POSTLUDE

"Venite!"

John Leavitt

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Rev. Amanda Davis

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN

Courtney Hutchins

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards

PIANIST

Jeremy Wood