

SERVICE OF THE WORD
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service
January 21, 2024 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE	He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought	<i>Gilmore and Bradbury</i>
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Go, Make of All Disciples (v. 1) "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.	UMH 571
*WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Davis
*HYMN OF WELCOME	Jesus Calls Us Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!" As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!" In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!" Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.	UMH 398
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Transforming Lives	Rev. Amanda Davis
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Amanda Davis
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Offertory Sanctuary Choir With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give him my first-born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man; he has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?	<i>John Ness Beck</i>
*DOXOLOGY	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 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	UMH 95
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles' Creed 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.	UMH 881
*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)

Rev. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

TFWS 2140

**What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I had sought,
since Jesus came into my heart!**

*Refrain: Since Jesus came into my heart,
since Jesus came into my heart,
floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,
since Jesus came into my heart.*

**I have ceased from my wandering and going astray,
since Jesus came into my heart!
And my sins, which were many are all washed away
since Jesus came into my heart! (*sing refrain*)**

**I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure,
since Jesus came into my heart!
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure,
since Jesus came into my heart! (*sing refrain*)**

**There's a light in the valley of death now for me,
since Jesus came into my heart!
And the gates of the City beyond I can see,
since Jesus came into my heart! (*sing refrain*)**

**I shall go there to dwell in that City, I know,
since Jesus came into my heart!
And I'm happy, so happy, as onward I go,
since Jesus came into my heart! (*sing refrain*)**

*SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:3-14

Rev. Lance Richards

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Transforming Lives

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

Take My Life and Let It Be

UMH 399

**Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

**Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Amanda Davis

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Lord, Whose Love

UMH 581

Through Humble Service (v. 4)

**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

Allegro Maestoso

G. F. Handel

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of
J. H. and Marion Freeman on the 69th anniversary
of their wedding, by their daughter, Caroline Freeman.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

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