SERVICE OF THE WORD FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service January 28, 2024 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE Variations on "O for a Thousand by Joyce Jones

Tongues" for Pedal Solo

*CALL TO WORSHIP Go, Make of All Disciples (v. 2) UMH 571

"Go, make of all disciples," baptizing in the name of Father, Son, and Spirit, from age to age the same. We call each new disciple to follow thee, O Lord, redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.

*WELCOME Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*HYMN OF WELCOME Christ for the World We Sing UMH 568
Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with loving zeal;
the poor, and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with fervent prayer; the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with one accord; with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare, with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with joyful song; the newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus by Brad Nix

Sanctuary Choir

Presented in Memory of Kathy Lee

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free! Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,

and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

His word shall not fail you he promised: believe him and all will be well:

then go to a world that is dying, his perfect salvation to tell!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,

and the things of earth will grow strangely \dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.

*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 The Church of Christ, in Every Age UMH 589

(Sung to the tune of UMH 415: Take Up Thy Cross)

The church of Christ, in every age beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord, to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

*SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-40 Rev. Amanda Davis

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

MESSAGE Transforming Communities Rev. Amanda Davis

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN); UMH 895 Rev. Amanda Davis

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. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF BLESSING Lord, You Give the Great Commission UMH 584 Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word." Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.

Refrain: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach." That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community. (sing refrain)

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."

Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,

asking that the world around us share your children's liberty. (sing refrain)

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive." Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us to a just society. (sing refrain)

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end." Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity. (sing refrain)

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*BENEDICTION Rev. Amanda Davis

*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 Emperor's Fanfare by Antonio Soler

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Charles and Esther Estes on their wedding anniversary by their daughter, Ruthie.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

PIANIST
ORGANIST
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR &
DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS DISCIPLESHIP, DOWNTOWN

Eric Bellah Paul Butt Rev. Amanda Davis Courtney Hutchins Dr. Terry Morris

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh