

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service
February 4, 2024 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE	Toccata in C, BWV 564	<i>J. S. Bach</i>
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Go, Make of All Disciples (verse 3) "Go, make of all disciples." We at thy feet would stay until each life's vocation accents thy holy way. We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart, revealing in our witness the master teacher's art.	UMH 571
*WELCOME		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
*HYMN OF WELCOME	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day! All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.	UMH 89
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Youth Soup Drive and Curbside Ashes	Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Lonesome Valley Sanctuary Choir Davis Scholar Soloists: Cate McCorquodale, Jack McCorquodale, Joel Morgan Jesus walked, yes, he walked, Jesus walked that lonesome valley for me. Don't ya know? Jesus walked it for you and me. Jesus climbed the hill of sorrow for me. Don't ya know that walkin' up that trail of tears, Jesus stumbles on the road. On his back he carries our fears, there's such a dreary, weary load. Jesus bore the cross for sinners, yes, for sinners like you and me. Don't ya know? Jesus walked, yes, he walked, oh, yes, he walked that lonesome valley for me; for you and me.	<i>Brad Nix</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
*INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE		Rev. Lance Richards
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Rev. Lance Richards

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.*

*SUNG RESPONSE UMH 364
Because He Lives (Refrain)
Refrain: **Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone, because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN (Live) Courtney Hutchins

*HYMN OF PREPARATION UMH 384
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**
**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**
**Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**
**Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*SCRIPTURE Rev. Lance Richards
1 John 4:7-21
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE Rev. Lance Richards
God's Love

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lance Richards

*HYMN OF REFLECTION UMH 408
The Gift of Love
**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**
**Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.**
**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh and Rev. Lance Richards
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Lift up your hearts!
People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Leader ...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Leader and People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader:...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Leader and People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: ...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Leader and People: **Amen.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Table of Grace

Pepper Choplin

Sanctuary Choir

Table of grace, table of mercy: See, there is room, there is plenty for all.

Rise up and come to this healing place. Come to the table of grace.

Table of grace for all who are weary, those who may struggle and need holy rest.

Love will refresh, and the Spirit will raise. Come to the table of grace.

Receive the bread like holy manna. Be nourished by heaven above.

Receive the cup like living water filled by God's timeless love.

Table of grace, generous bounty, offering freely forgiveness and love;

Come and discover God's merciful ways. Come to the table of grace.

Come, there is plenty, with rest for the weary. Come to the table of grace.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR KRISTEN JONES

Rev. Lance Richards

*THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SONG

Albert Hay Malotte

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*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

Piece pour grand orgue

Joseph Jongen

*Please stand as you are able.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given
in honor of Kristen Jones, by the Flores Family.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN

Courtney Hutchins

DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Dr. Terry Morris

PASTOR OF FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP &

DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS – DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards

PIANIST

Jeremy Wood