SERVICE OF THE WORD SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus | Sanctuary February 25, 2024 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE	Be Thou When I Survey	-	arr. by Gaspard and Hayes Cross		
	HIP Take Up cross," the Savior sai , the world forsake, a		uldst my disciple be;		
*WELCOME			Rev. Amanda Davis		
	- TUNE) ess in God's mercy lik		sus Calls Us) s of the sea;		
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good! There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.					
	God is broader than th f the Eternal is most w		-		
	but more simple, we buld be illumined by t		-		
LIFE OF THE CHU		Summit 2.0 & er Discovery La	Rev. Lance Richards aunch		
OFFERING PRAY	ER		Rev. Amanda Davis		
OFFERING OUR	GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation		
		nd is a Back	Alico Darkor		
ι k N	Sanctuary Cho y God is a rock in a we now he is a rock in a we Stop 'n let me te when the Lord God Stop 'n let me te when the Lord God Stop and let me te when the Lord Stop and let me te when the Lord Stop an' let me te when the Lord Stop an' let me te bied and ris Stop an' let me te Died and ris Stop an' let me te bied me te John seen him se Stop an' let me te	veary land, shell Il you 'bout the I's work was just Il you 'bout the od's written his Il you 'bout the ord God died on eary land, shelt ell you 'bout the God visit 'mo ell you 'bout the God brought the eary land, shelt Il you 'bout the sean and went to Il you 'bout the standin' at the standin' at the earned the water ell you 'bout the standin' in the very comin' comin'	y land, in a weary land. Iter in a time of storm. e Chapter One, st begun, Hallelu, e Chapter Two, s Bible through, e Chapter Three, n Calvary. ter in a time of storm. te Chapter Four ong the po' te Chapter Five, he dead alive. he Chapter Six, aled the sick. ter in a time of storm. e Chapter Seven. o heaven. e Chapter Eight. Golden Gate. e Chapter Ten. world again.		

*OFFERING RESPONSE When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (v. 4) UMH 298 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*THE PSALTER	Psalm 103:1-18 (with Musical Response)	Rev. Lance Richards UMH 824				
<u><i>R</i></u> : As far as the east is from the west, so far the Lord removes our sins from us.						
Bless the Lord, O my so who forgives all your who redeems your life	oul! and all that is within me, ble oul, and forget not all God's ber iniquity, who heals all your dise from the pit, who crowns you fies you with good as long as yo the eagle's. <u>R</u>	nefits, ases, with steadfast love				
made known God's w The Lord is merciful ar and abounding in ste The Lord will not alway	indication and justice for all who vays to Moses, God's acts to the id gracious, slow to anger eadfast love. <i>v</i> s chide, nor harbor anger foreve I with us according to our sins,	people of Israel.				
 nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is the Lord's steadfast love toward the faithful; as far as the east is from the west, so far does the Lord remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to the faithful. 						
 For the Lord knows our frame, and remembers we are dust. <u>R</u> As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon the faithful, and the righteousness of the Lord to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. <u>R</u> 						
TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE)		Courtney Hutchins				
*HYMN OF PREPARATION	Help Us Accept Each Other	UMH 560				

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Help Us Accept Each Other Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

*SCRIPTURE Luke 6:27-38 The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.** Rev. Lance Richards

MESSAGE	Our Core Values: Love All	Rev. Lance Richards			
*AFFIRMATION OF FAIT	H A Modern Affirmation	Rev. Amanda Davis UMH 885			
	pirit of the Lord is, there is one true y faith let us now declare:	e church, apostolic and			
Pastor and People: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.					
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh			
done on earth, as it is forgive us our trespass	heaven, hallowed be thy name. Th in heaven. Give us this day our dail ses, as we forgive those who trespa leliver us from evil. For thine is the	y bread. And ss against us. And lead us not			
INVITATION TO THE ALTA	AR	Rev. Lance Richards			
*HYMN OF BLESSING	Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee (TUNE – UMH 355: Depth of Me	UMH 562 rcy)			

Jesus, Lord, we look to thee; let us in thy name agree; show thyself the Prince of Peace, bid our strife forever cease. By thy reconciling love every stumbling block remove; each to each unite, endear; come, and spread thy banner here. Make us of one heart and mind, gentle, courteous, and kind, lowly, meek, in thought and word, altogether like our Lord. Let us for each other care, each the other's burdens bear; to thy church the pattern give, show how true believers live. Free from anger and from pride, let us thus in God abide; all the depths of love express, all the heights of holiness. Let us then with joy remove to the family above; on the wings of angels fly, show how true believers die. ***STEP FORWARD IN FAITH** Rev. Amanda Davis *BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards *BENEDICTION RESPONSE Lord, Speak to Me (v. 2) UMH 463 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone; as thou has sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone. POSTLUDE Toccata-Etude by Gordon Young

> ALTAR FLOWERS The flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Sally Holland's 90th birthday, by her family.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR & DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES (DOWNTOWN) SENIOR PASTOR PIANIST Courtney Hutchins Dr. Terry Morris

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood