

**SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service**  
**March 3, 2024 | 11:00 am**

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PRELUDE Lord of the Dance *arr. Joel Raney*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Take Up Thy Cross (v. 1) UMH 415  
**"Take up thy cross," the Savior said, "if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."**

\*WELCOME Rev. Amanda Davis

\*HYMN OF WELCOME I Stand Amazed in the Presence UMH 371  
**I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene,  
and wonder how he could love me, a sinner, condemned, unclean.**

*Refrain: How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be:  
How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love for me!*

**For me it was in the garden he prayed: "Not my will, but thine."  
He had no tears for his own griefs, but sweatdrops of blood for mine.**  
*(sing refrain)*

**In pity angels beheld him, and came from the world of light  
to comfort him in the sorrows he bore for my soul that night.**  
*(sing refrain)*

**He took my sins and my sorrows, he made them his very own;  
he bore the burden to Calvary, and suffered and died alone.**  
*(sing refrain)*

**When with the ransomed in glory his face I at last shall see,  
'twill be my joy through the ages to sing of his love for me.**  
*(sing refrain)*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Embody Christ Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC The King of Love My Shepherd Is *Dan Forrest*  
Sanctuary Choir

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.  
Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.  
Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.  
The King of love my shepherd is, my Shepherd is the King of love;  
And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house, forever.

\*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.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Affirmation from Rev. Amanda Davis  
1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16

Leader: There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all,  
to whom we testify.

People: **The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: That Jesus Christ came into the world  
to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by the angels,  
proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great  
indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN Courtney Hutchins

**O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me the secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.**

**Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong;**

**In hope that sends a shining ray far down thee future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.**

\*SCRIPTURE Luke 7:18-23 Rev. Lance Richards

MESSAGE Embody Christ Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. Lance Richards

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Lance Richards

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these, our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father. For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR PARDON Rev. Lance Richards

Almighty God, our heavenly Father...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Rev. Lance Richards

\*HYMN OF INVITATION The Summons TFWS 2130

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.**

**Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Rev. Lance Richards & Rev. Amanda Davis

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

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

**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!**

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

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Reflections in the Cup

*Brad Nix*

Sanctuary Choir; Anthony Perez, soloist  
I break the bread and pour the wine, but I am filled with dread.  
For, as I look into the cup, I see what lies ahead.  
You celebrate the feast with me, but do not understand  
The One you see before you is the sacrificial Lamb.  
I am the Lamb! I am the Lamb!  
I see the cup before me. I am in the Father's hands.  
The sacrifice is chosen, and the ransom must be paid.  
I am the Lamb, there is no other way.  
Inside the cup, I see what will unfold this very night.  
I hear the footsteps thundering and see the torches' light,  
I silently endure the kiss on my face,  
and watch you fall away in fear as I am led away.  
I am the Lamb! I am the Lamb!  
I see the cup before me. I am in the Father's hands.  
The sacrifice is chosen, and the ransom must be paid.  
I am the Lamb, there is no other way.  
A courtyard echoes with the sound of ridicule and scorn.  
I see a purple robe of shame, a cruel crown of thorns.  
The angry cries of "Crucify!" now lead me to the streets.  
I bear the insult of the cross for everyone to see.  
And as the hammer starts to fall, the nails begin to sing.  
I'm firmly held in the embrace and torment of the tree.  
The Father turns his face away. My mother starts to weep.  
I breathe my last and now the cup holds nothing more to see.  
I am the Lamb! I am the Lamb!  
I see the cup before me. I am in the Father's hands.  
The sacrifice is chosen, and the ransom must be paid.  
I am the Lamb, there is no other way. I am the Lamb.

\*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. Amanda Davis

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Lord, Speak to Me (v.3)

UMH 463

**O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;  
and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare and Processional

*Keith Chapman*

\*Please stand as you are able.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in celebration of 30 years of wedded bliss and  
10 years of membership at First Methodist Houston,  
by Richard and Crystal Smith.

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#### 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