SERVICE OF THE WORD FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service March 17, 2024 | 11:00 am

	March 17, 2024 11:00 a	m	
PRELUDE	Oh, How He Loves You and Me	arr. Fred Bock	
*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		Dr. Brant Wallace	
	Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed Savior bleed, and did my Sovereigr that sacred head for sinners such a		
<i>Refrain:</i> At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away; It was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.			
Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! and love beyond degree! (sing refrain)			
Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut its glories in, when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creature's sin. (<i>sing refrain</i>)			
Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears; dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears. (<i>sing refrain</i>)			
But drops of tears can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe. Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do. sing refrain			
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Volunteer Discovery Tool	Rev. Lance Richards	
OFFERING PRAYER		Dr. Brant Wallace	
OFFERING OUR GIFTS	TO GOD	Congregation	
MINISTRY IN MUSIC When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Gilbert Martin Sanctuary Choir When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died; my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!			
	NSE When I Survey the Wondrou ealm of nature mine, that were an o divine, demands my soul, my life	offering far too small;	
*THE PSALTER	Psalm 119 (Musical Response 3)	UMH 840	
Musical Response: Th	y word is a lamp unto my feet and	l a light unto my path.	
Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep God's testimonies, who seek God with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in God's ways! You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances. I will observe your statutes; O forsake me not utterly! <u>R</u> Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.			
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.			

and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to gain! Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; and give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. Turn away the reproach which I dread; for your ordinances are good. Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life! R Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise; then shall I have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth for my hope is in your ordinances. I will keep your law continually, for ever and ever; and I shall walk in liberty, for I have sought your precepts. I will also speak of your testimonies before rulers, and shall not be put to shame; for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. I revere your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes. R Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore thy soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for you are just to those who love your name. Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no inquiry get dominion over me. Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts. Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears, because your law is not kept. R Righteous are you, O Lord, and right are your judgments. You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. Your righteousness is righteous for ever, and your law is true. Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but your commandments are my delight. Your testimonies are righteous for ever; give me understanding that I may live. R TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE) **Courtney Hutchins** W&S 3140 *HYMN OF PREPARATION Give Me Jesus In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus. I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say, give me Jesus. (sing refrain) Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. (sing refrain) Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, **oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.** (*sing refrain*) *SCRIPTURE Luke 11:1-13 Rev. Lance Richards The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. Seek God Daily MESSAGE Rev. Lance Richards *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The World Methodist UMH 886 Social Affirmation

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

We believe; God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom: in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation. in each act of selfgiving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

Glory be to God on high; an on earth, peace.

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith; through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference; through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross, to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come.

Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

HOST

PIANIST

Dr. Brant Wallace Dr. Brant Wallace

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

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 II I have decided to follow I have decided to follow I have decided to follow no turning back, no tur	v Jesus, v Jesus,	TFWS 2129
The world behind me, t the world behind me, t the world behind me, t no turning back, no tur	he cross before me, he cross before me,	
Though none go with m though none go with m though none go with m no turning back, no tur	e, still I will follow, e, still I will follow,	
*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH		Rev. Lance Richards
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lance Richards
	Lord, Speak to Me (v. 5) en me, just as thou wilt, and wh see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory s	
POSTLUDE	Grand Choeur	Theodore Dubois
SERVICE PARTICIPANTS: ORGANIST DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINIST DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSI- SENIOR PASTOR	Paul Butt RIES DOWNTOWNCourtney Hutchins C	Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Lance Richards