

**SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service**  
**March 31, 2024 | 11:00 am**

---

PRELUDE Christ the Lord is Risen Today *arr. by Joel Raney*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Majesty, Worship His Majesty UMH 176

**Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.**  
**Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his throne unto his own; his anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.**  
**Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.**

**Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified,**  
**King of all kings.**

\*WELCOME Rev. Amanda Davis

\*HYMN OF WELCOME Christ the Lord Is Risen Today *by Douglas Wagner*

**CHOIR ONLY:** Alleluia, joy unending, praise ascending to the sky. Death is vanquished, life has triumphed. Christ is risen today! Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen, Alleluia!

**CONGREGATION WITH CHOIR:**

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!**  
**Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!**  
**Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!**  
**Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!**  
**Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

**CHOIR ONLY:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen today!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC To the Lamb on the Throne *by Dan Forrest*

Sanctuary Choir

Worthy the Lamb. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad His wonderful name;  
The name all victorious of Jesus extol; His Kingdom is glorious and rules overall.

Worthy the Lamb, "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"

Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son; the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb. Worthy the Lamb. God rules in the height, almighty to save:  
though hid from our sight, His presence we have. The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King. "Worthy the Lamb." Then let us adore and give Him His right,  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might; all honor and blessing with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love. "Worthy the Lamb!"

\*OFFERING RESPONSE Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE) Courtney Hutchins

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

Crown Him With Many Crowns

*by Craig Courtney*

**CHOIR ONLY:** Crown him with many crowns! Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight. But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

**CONGREGATION MEN:**

**Crown him with many crowns, the lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

**CONGREGATION WOMEN:**

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**FULL CONGREGATION:**

**Crown him the Lord of years: the potentate of time, Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou has died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

**CHOIR ONLY:** Crown Him with many crowns!

\*SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:1-12

Rev. Lance Richards

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

MESSAGE

“Why Do You Look For the Dead?”

Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Lance Richards

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Lance Richards

People: **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.**

HYMN OF INVITATION

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

*by Dan Forrest*

**CHOIR ONLY:** If God be for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His only Son,  
but gave Him up for all, shall He not with Him freely give us all things?

**CONGREGATION WITH CHOIR:**

**Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! To his throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heaven Alleluia.  
Circled round with angel powers, Alleluia! Their triumphant Lord and ours, Alleluia!  
Christ has conquered death and sin, Alleluia! Take the King of Glory in, Alleluia!  
Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! To his throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!  
Christ the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heaven, Alleluia!**

**CHOIR ONLY:** Shall he not with him freely give us all things? Alleluia!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh, Rev. Lance Richards, and Rev. Ann Spears

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:

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:

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

Leader: ...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Servers and Congregation

COMMUNION MUSIC

Agnus Dei

*by Samuel Barber*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Grant us peace.

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.**

\*HYMN OF BLESSING

Hallelujah Chorus

*by George Fredric Handel*

INTRODUCTION

CONGREGATION:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

WOMEN:

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth,

MEN:

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth,

CONGREGATION:

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord  
and of His Christ, and of His Christ.

MEN:

And He shall reign forever and ever.

CHOIR: And He shall reign forever and ever.

WOMEN:

And He shall reign forever and ever.

CHOIR: And He shall reign forever and ever.

WOMEN:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords, King of Kings and Lord of Lords,

CHOIR: King of Kings and Lord of Lords, And Lord of Lords!

MEN:

And He shall reign forever and ever.

WOMEN:

And He shall reign forever and ever.

MEN:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

CONGREGATION:

**And He shall reign forever, forever and ever.  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords! King of Kings and Lord of Lords!  
And He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Amanda Davis

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

BENEDICATION RESPONSE

He Lives (REFRAIN)

UMH 310

*Refrain: He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!*

**He walks with me, and talks with me along life's narrow way.**

**He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!**

**You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.**

\*POSTLUDE

Toccata from the Fifth Organ Symphony

*by C.M. Widor*

BRASS ENSEMBLE

Trumpet  
Diego Gonzales  
Liam Cagley

Trombone  
Jaime Koon  
Tim George

Timpani  
Lovie Smith-Wright

*Musicians for Holy Week have been provided through generous donations from Laura and Jeff Aldis, Chuck and Susan Barnes, Judy Bowers, Abigail Bush, Patricia Rico, Karen Scott and others who wish to remain anonymous.*

---

**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

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR & DIRECTOR OF STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR

Rev. Ann Spears

PIANIST

Jeremy Wood