

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE | EASTER SUNDAY
First United Methodist Church of Houston, Downtown Campus
April 20, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE	Crown Him with Many Crowns The gifted Prelude arrangement is presented in honor of the Richards Family: Lance, Rachel, Nathaniel and Gabriel.	<i>Innes and Fasig</i>
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Forever (We Sing Hallelujah) Copyright 2013, Worship Together Music	B. Johnson, K. Kobe, J. Johnson, G. Wilson, J. Taylor, & C. B. Gifford
	Verse 1: The moon and stars, they wept, the morning sun was dead; the Savior of the world was fallen. His body on the cross, his blood poured out for us, the weight of ev'ry curse upon him.	
	Verse 2: One final breath he gave, as heaven looked away; the Son of God was laid in darkness. A battle in the grave, the war on death was waged; the pow'r of hell forever broken.	
	Pre-Chorus: The ground began to shake, the stone was rolled away; his perfect love could not be overcome. Now death, where is your sting? Our resurrected King has rendered you defeated.	
	Chorus: Now, forever he is glorified; forever he is lifted high. And forever he is risen; he is alive, and he is alive. <i>(sing chorus) (sing Pre-Chorus) (sing Chorus twice)</i>	
	Bridge: We sing hallelujah, we sing hallelujah, we sing hallelujah. The Lamb has overcome. (sing Bridge)	
	Ending: And now death, where is your sting? Our resurrected King has overcome, he's overcome. Oh.	
*WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Davis
*SONG OF WELCOME	Christ the Lord is Risen Today Copyright 2007, Lorenz Publishing Company Sanctuary Choir and Congregation	<i>arr. Douglas Wagner</i>
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!	
	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	Summer Preview	Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Mercy Tree Copyright 2012, Universal Music	<i>Bradley Knight</i>
	Sanctuary Choir; Ray Fonseca, Ben Barajas, Keven Alvarenga, Taylor Surratt, & Cole Jones, Soloists On a hill called Calvary there stands an endless mercy tree. Every broken weary soul, find your rest and be made whole. Stripes of blood that stain its frame shed to wash away our shame. From the scars, pure love released, salvation by the mercy tree. In the sky between two thieves hung the blameless Prince of Peace, bruised and battered, scarred and scorned, sacred head pierced by our thorns. "It is finished," was His cry. The perfect Lamb was crucified. The sacrifice, our victory; our Savior chose the mercy tree. Hope went dark that violent day. The whole earth quaked at Love's display. Three days silent in the ground, this body born for heaven's crown. On that bright and glorious day Heaven opened up the grave: He's alive and risen indeed! O praise Him for the mercy tree! Death has died, love has won. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Jesus Christ has overcome; He has risen from the dead. One day soon we'll see His face and every tear, He'll wipe away. No more pain or suffering: O praise Him for the mercy tree! Death has died, love has won. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Jesus Christ has overcome; He has risen from the dead.	
*OFFERING RESPONSE	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH 94
TIME FOR CHILDREN		Courtney Hutchins
*SONG OF PREPARATION	Because He lives Copyright 1971, William J. Gaither, Inc.?	<i>arr. Cottrell & Brown</i>
	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.	

God sent his son, they called him Jesus. He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon; an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives. *(sing refrain)*

And then one day I'll cross that river; I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory, and I'll know he lives. *(sing refrain)*

CHOIR ONLY and life is worth the living just because he lives. He lives!

*SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-12 Rev. Sylvia Kiboko & Rev. Ken Coneby
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Raised to Life, Sent to Love Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

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
Hear the good news... ..in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

*HYMN OF INVITATION Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise *arr. Dan Forrest*
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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? 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?

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. Sylvia Kiboko,
Rev. Ken Coneby, Rev. Lance Richards,
Rev. Amanda Davis, & Rev. Steven Newcomb
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.**

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP Communion Servers

COMMUNION MUSIC Worthy is the Lamb Pepper Choplin
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Sanctuary Choir

Clothed in righteousness, robed in glory, holy is the Lord of Hosts. Blessing and honor, glory and power to Him who reigns upon the throne.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor and praise for evermore.

I heard the voice of many angels, they were gathered 'round the throne. They were ten thousand times ten thousand, all the angels joined as one.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor and praise for evermore Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
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.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH	Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh, Rev. Amanda Davis, Rev. Steven Newcomb, & Rev. Ken Coneby	
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lance Richards
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	Hallelujah Chorus in C (PDM)	G.F. 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!		
POSTLUDE	Toccatta from the Fifth Organ Symphony	Charles Marie Widor
*Please stand as you are able.		
	SANCTUARY FLOWERS	
	The chancel flowers today are given by the Fidelis Class in celebration of their 80 th anniversary.	
1 ST Violin	STRING QUARTET	
Yanki Karatas	2 nd Violin	Viola
	Samuel Park	Matthew Weathers
	Cello	
	Wendy Smith Butler	
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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:		
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EXECUTIVE PASTOR		Rev. Amanda Davis
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC		Cynthia Douglas
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRY		Courtney Hutchins
ALTAR UMOJA PASTOR		Rev. Sylvia Kiboko
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC		Dr. Terry Morris
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR		Rev. Steven Newcomb
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR & DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
SENIOR PASTOR		Rev. Lance Richards
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