

SERVICE OF THE WORD | SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | MEMORIAL SUNDAY
First United Methodist Church of Houston, Downtown Campus
May 25, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE	America the Beautiful Copyright 2004, Hope Publishing Company	arr. Joel Raney
*CALL TO WORSHIP	All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name (v. 1 & 4)	UMH 155
All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall, let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him, and crown him Lord of all. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball, on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him, and crown him Lord of all.		
*WELCOME		Rev. Ken Coneby
*OPENING PRAYER		Rev. Ken Coneby
*HYMN OF WELCOME	Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken	UMH 731
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Red, White & Blue Jeans	Rev. Amanda Davis
*HYMN OF INVITATION	Shall We Gather at the River (vs. 1-2)	UMH 723
SERVICE OF BAPTISM AND REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH	Rev. Lance Richards & Rev. Ken Coneby	
Name of Candidate for Baptism: Arthur Ramirez Name of Candidate for Reaffirmation of Faith: David Gaston		
RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH	Do you, as Christ’s body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? We do. Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Arthur and David in your care? With God’s help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Arthur and David with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life eternal.	
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. Do you believe in Jesus Christ? I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.	
THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER	The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.	
COMMENDATION & WELCOME	... confirm their hope, and perfect them in love. We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and of First Methodist Houston we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in and build up the mission and ministries of the church by offering our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.	
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	Shall We Gather at the River (vs. 3-4)	UMH 723
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Because He Lives Copyright 1971, 2005 William J. Gaither, Inc. Sanctuary Choir, Riley Morton, Soloist	arr. Mark Hayes
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. How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives; But greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because He lives. 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.
And then one day, I'll cross the 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.
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. My Redeemer lives!

*DOXOLOGY 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!

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Ken Coneby

SPECIAL MUSIC Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) arr. Joel Raney
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Anthony Rogers

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me and like a flood His mercy reigns; unending love; amazing grace.
The Lord has promised good to me his word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow; the sun forbear to shine. But God who called me here below will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

*SCRIPTURE Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5 Rev. Amanda Davis
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE The Healing of the Nations Rev. Lance Richards

*CALL TO PRAYER America the Beautiful UMH 696

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

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.

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR Rev. Lance Richards

*HYMN OF BLESSING For the Healing of the Nations (vs. 1-3) UMH 428

*PRAYER OF SENDING FORTH FOR REV. KEN CONEBY Rev. Lance Richards

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Amanda Davis & Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE For the Healing of the Nations (v. 4) UMH 428
You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind,
for our growing in your likeness bring your life of Christ to mind,
that, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.

POSTLUDE Amazing Grace arr. Christopher Pardini
2001 Gia Publications

*Please stand as you are able.

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