

SERVICE OF THE WORD | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
First United Methodist Church, Houston

West Campus Traditional Service - 9:00 am - Hinson Chapel | Downtown Campus Traditional Service - 11:00 am - Sanctuary
December 15, 2024

PRELUDE	Est ist ein Ros entsprungen Public domain	<i>arr. Johannes Brahms</i> (9:00)
	Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming Copyright 1998, Glorysound, a division of Shawnee Press	<i>arr. Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard</i> (11:00)
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus	UMH 196
	Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.	
	Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.	
*WELCOME		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)
*CAROL OF WELCOME	Hail to the Lord's Anointed	UMH 203
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		Kevin & Jane O'Brien (9:00) The Wallace Family (11:00)
SUNG RESPONSE	O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Refrain)	UMH 211
	<i>Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</i>	
FINANCIAL UPDATE		Rev. Lance Richards
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	NIA Christmas Party & Christmas Eve Services	Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Good Christian Men, Rejoice Copyright 1981, Oxford University Press Sanctuary Choir	<i>arr. John Rutter</i>
	Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!	
	Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!	
	Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!	
*OFFERING RESPONSE	O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 3)	UMH 230
	How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.	
*THE MAGNIFICAT	Canticle of Mary	UMH 199
	<u>Musical Response:</u> The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.	Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
	My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant. From this day all generations shall call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is the name of the Lord, whose mercy is on those who hear God from generation to generation. The arm of the Lord is strong, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.	

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich empty away.

**God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant, remembering the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Musical Response: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.

TIME FOR CHILDREN		Janet Galindo (9:00) Courtney Hutchins (11:00)
*CAROL OF PREPARATION	Tell Out, My Soul	UMH 200
*SCRIPTURE	Philippians 4:4-7	Rev. Lance Richards
The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.		
MESSAGE	Do Not Be Anxious	Rev. Lance Richards
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)		UMH 895
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.		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
INVITATION TO THE ALTAR		Rev. Lance Richards
*CAROL OF BLESSING	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	UMH 218
*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH		Rev. Steven Newcomb & Rev. Lance Richards (9:00) Rev. Amanda Davis & Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lance Richards
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Refrain)	UMH 206
<i>Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.</i>		
*POSTLUDE	Swiss Noel public domain	Louis Claude D'Aquin
*Please stand as you are able.		

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar in the Downtown Sanctuary today are given by Ellen and Gary Hickman Commemorating 114 Years of Service to Christ at Main and Clay on December 18th. and in memory of Reverend Dr. Shepherd Halsey Werlein, Jr.

Dr Werlein posed a question to the congregation in his 1883 farewell sermon

".... how may the glory of God become our heritage?" His answer was ".... when we are as one."

CCLI License #451160

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST	Paul Butt
EXECUTIVE PASTOR	Rev. Amanda Davis
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Cynthia Douglas
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR	Janet Galindo
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN	Courtney Hutchins
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
PIANIST	Jeremy Wood