

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE | FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
First United Methodist Church of Houston, Downtown Campus
April 6, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE	Air on the G String (PDM) Wendy Smith Butler, cello, & Katie Butler, violin	J.S. Bach
*CALL TO WORSHIP	God is So Good Anthony Rogers & Altar Umoja	Paul Makai
<i>(English): God is so Good God is so Good God is so Good is so Good, to me!</i> <i>(Swahili): Mungu yu mwema Mungu yu mwema Mungu yu mwema Yu mwema, kwangu!</i> <i>(French): Dieu est si bon Dieu est si bon Dieu est si bon, Il est bon, pour moi!</i> <i>(Spanish): Dios bueno es Dios bueno es Dios bueno es Bueno es el Señor!</i>		
*WELCOME		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
*OPENING PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb
*HYMN OF WELCOME	Jesus Paid It All	W&S 3100
I hear the Savior say, Thy strength indeed is small. Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all." <i>Refrain: Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.</i> Lord, now indeed I find thy power, and thine alone can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone. <i>(sing refrain)</i> For nothing good have I whereby thy grace to claim; I'll wash my garments clean in the blood of Calvary's Lamb. <i>(sing refrain)</i> And when, before the throne, I stand in him complete, "Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat. <i>(sing refrain)</i>		
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Pastoral Announcement	Dr. Brant Wallace, Cathy Airola, & Rev. Lance Richards
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Ken Coneby
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	The Alabaster Jar Copyright 2016, Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Sanctuary Choir; Wendy Smith Butler, cello The scent of oil fills the house, in joyful celebration; sweet scent of faith, balm of belief, a gift for him whose name is Love. The fragrance lingers on His robe, in somber preparation; anointing oil of purest nard, a gift for him whose name is Love. Lord, make a vessel of my heart filled with the fragrance of Your mercy, the scent of love and of grace, the oil of pardon and of peace, that I may pour it at your feet. Her gift was love, poured out in joy, an act of adoration; a deed to echo through the years, a gift of love, poured from an alabaster jar.	Craig Courtney
*OFFERING RESPONSE	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (V. 4)	UMH 298
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.		
*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! <i>Glory to God. Amen.</i>		
*RESPONSE OF ASSURANCE	I Love You with the Love of the Lord Anthony Rogers & Altar Umoja	James Gilbert
Oui! Je t'aime de l'amour du Seigneur! Oui! Je t'aime de l'amour du Seigneur! Car je vois en toi, la gloire de mon Roi! Oui! Je t'aime de l'amour du Seigneur! Yes! I love you with the love of my God! Yes! I love you with the love of my God! Cause I see in you the Glory of the Lord! Yes! I love you with the love of my God! Nakupenda na Mapendo ya Mungu! Nakupenda na Mapendo ya Mungu! Nina ona ndani yako, Mapendo ya Mungu! Nakupenda na Mapendo ya Mungu!		
TIME FOR CHILDREN		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
*SONG OF PREPARATION	My Testimony Anthony Rogers	Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, & Tiffany Hammer
I saw Satan fall like lightning. I saw darkness run for cover. But the miracle that I just can't get over; my name is registered in heaven.		

I believe in signs and wonders. I have resurrection power. Still the miracle that I just can't get over;
my name is registered in heaven. Yeah my praise belongs to you forever.

Chorus: This is my testimony: from death to life. 'Cause grace rewrote my story, I'll testify.

By Jesus Christ the righteous, I'm justified. This is my testimony. This is my testimony.

Come together, sons and daughters. Bought with blood and washed in water.

Sing the praises of the Spirit Son and Father. Our God will finish what he started. *(sing chorus)*

If I'm not dead you're not done; greater things are still to come. Oh I believe.

If I'm not dead you're not done; greater things are still to come. Oh I believe.

This is my testimony: from death to life. 'Cause grace rewrote my story, I'll testify

By Jesus Christ the righteous, I'm justified. This is my testimony: oh I'm alive. *(sing chorus)*

*SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:19-21 & 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Rev. Sylvia Kiboko & Rev. Steven Newcomb
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE Give: Fueling Discipleship Growth through a Culture of Generosity Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

*SONG OF INVITATION Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross UMH 301

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Rev. Steven Newcomb, Rev. Sylvia Kiboko, Rev. Ken Coneby,
Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh, Rev. Lance Richards, & Rev. Amanda Davis

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN) Rev. Lance Richards

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC The Garden of Tears *Joseph Martin*

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Sanctuary Choir, Wendy Smith Butler, cello, & Katie Butler, violin

Who is praying in the garden underneath the olive trees? Who kneels down his heart in anguish? Who cries out in agony?

Jesus, Jesus, Precious Rose, now crushed for me. High on the wind there comes a cry: "Come away, come away."

Look to the Rose of Paradise, O come to the garden of tears. Journey to dark Gethsemane, Come away, come away.

See how the man of sorrows weeps. O come to the garden of tears. Man of Sorrows, wounded Savior, in a garden your suffering was born.

Flower of Eden, Rose of Sharon, pierced and bruised by our thorns. Come to the garden of tears. Soft on the wind there comes a song:

"Come away, come away." "Father, let thy will be done." O come to the garden of tears.

STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Steven Newcomb, Rev. Amanda Davis, & Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross *(Refrain)* UMH 301

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

POSTLUDE Christ is Made the Sure Foundation *Marvin Gaspard*
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*Please stand as you are able.

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

CELLO	Wendy Smith Butler	ADULT DISCIPLESHIP &	Rev. Steven Newcomb
VIOLIN	Katie Butler	CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR	
ORGANIST	Paul Butt	FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR &	Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
EXECUTIVE PASTOR	Rev. Amanda Davis	DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY	
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Cynthia Douglas	SENIOR PASTOR	Rev. Lance Richards
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Dr. Terry Morris	PIANIST	Jeremy Wood