

SERVICE OF THE WORD | BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First United Methodist Church, Houston

West Campus Traditional Service - 9:00 am - Hinson Chapel | Downtown Campus Traditional Service - 11:00 am - Sanctuary

January 12, 2024

PRELUDE	Fugue in D Major BWV 532 (PDM)	<i>J. S. Bach</i>
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies	UMH 173
	Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.	
	Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see; till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.	
	Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.	
*WELCOME		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
*HYMN OF WELCOME	When Jesus Came to Jordan (Sung to the tune of UMH 545: The Church's One Foundation)	UMH 252
	When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.	
	He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.	
	Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make; this very day invade us, and every bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.	
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Strategic Plan Presentations & Church Conference	Rev. Lance Richards
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Crystal River Copyright 2013, Hal Leonard Corporation Sanctuary Choir	<i>Heather Sorenson</i>
	There's a River, pure and lovely, springing forth from realms unseen, bearing joy through Heaven's City, raining grace on earth beneath. Crystal River, water holy, where the whitest lily grows, Crystal River, ever flowing from the Lamb and Father's throne. Shining pools of peace and comfort, shimmering waves of sheer delight, glorious fount of truth and counsel, gleaming depths of mercy bright. Crystal River, water holy, where the whitest lily grows. Crystal River, ever flowing from the Lamb and Father's throne. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on heaven's shore. In the sweet by and by, we shall sing forevermore. Here I come, for you have called me. Here I bathe my weary feet. Here my heart is cleansed and strengthened; endless life wells up in me! Crystal River, water holy, where the whitest lily grows, Crystal River, ever flowing from the Lamb and Father's throne.	

*DOXOLOGY	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH 95
	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostle's Creed	UMH 881
	Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)	
	I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and 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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. 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.	
*GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father	UMH 70
	Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.	
TIME FOR CHILDREN		Janet Galindo (9:00) Courtney Hutchins (11:00)
*HYMN OF PREPARATION	Down by the Jordan	W&S 3045
	Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing, preaching a message the people found bold and surprising. "God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live! Surely God's new day is rising!"	
	There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation: "Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?" "No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I judges and offers salvation."	
	Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others, taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters. Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove! Your work began in those waters.	
	Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit. Freed and forgiven we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it? This is God's sign! This is how God says "You're mine!" Let's take the good news and share it!	
*SCRIPTURE	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Rev. Lance Richards
	The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
MESSAGE	Claimed by God	Rev. Lance Richards
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Amanda Davis (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. Amanda Davis (11:00)
*CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT		Rev. Lance Richards & Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Lance Richards, Rev. Amanda Davis, & Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
	And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death? We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin. Will you let the Holy Spirit use you as prophets to the powers of evil, injustice and oppression? We accept the freedom and the power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ in union with the church, Christ's body on earth? We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races. According to the grace given to you, will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?	

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

...Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

MUSIC DURING REAFFIRMATION

Down to the River to Pray

W&S 3164

**As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.**

O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

**As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.**

O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, brothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

**As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.**

O fathers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, fathers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

**As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.**

O mothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, mothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

**As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.**

O sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Come on, sinners, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

MUSIC DURING REAFFIRMATION

Shall We Gather At the River

UMH 723

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

**REFRAIN: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *(sing refrain)***

**Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. *(sing refrain)***

**Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. *(sing refrain)***

*THANKSGIVING

Rev. Lance Richards

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members together 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.

*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

Be Thou My Vision (v. 1)

UMH 451

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

*POSTLUDE

Venite!
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John Leavett

*Please stand as you are able.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar in the Downtown Sanctuary are given In memory of Mary Jane Magill and her birthday, a little over 83 years ago by her daughter, Laura Aldis.

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