

SERVICE OF THE WORD | FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
First United Methodist Houston, Downtown Campus
March 9, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE	Deep River	<i>arr. Craig Curry</i>
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe/There is no One like Jesus	Rev. Sylvia Kiboko
Hakuna mungu kama we we	There is no one, there is no one like Jesus	
Hakuna mungu kama we	There is no one, there is no one like him	
Hakuna mungu kama we we	There is no one, there is no one like Jesus	
Hakuna na hatakuwepo	There is no one , there is no one like him.	
Nimetembea kote kote!	I've walked and walked all over, over!	
Nimetafuta kote kote!	I've searched and searched all over, over!	
Nimezunguka kote kote!	I've turned and turned all over, over!	
hakuna na hatakuwepo	There is no one, there is no one like him!	
*WELCOME		Rev. Lance Richards
*OPENING PRAYER		Rev. Lance Richards
*HYMN OF WELCOME	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	UMH 384
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS		Rev. Lance Richards
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	STAAR Bags	Rev. Amanda Davis
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Amanda Davis
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Forsaken Copyright 2014, Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Sanctuary Choir	<i>Dan Forrest</i>
	“How long, O God, will you neglect my prayer? Will you forget these tears of dark despair? Yet not my will but your alone be done: forsake not man but me, your sinless son. I, Christ the Son, obey your great command, enduring punishment for sinful man. As Son and silent Lamb I choose this path: accept rejection to appease your wrath.” “O why, my God, have you rejected me? Why have you now refused my final plea? Though I cry out in sorrow, pain and fear. You turn your back in silence, in silence disappear. I Christ the Son bear all their sin alone, embracing judgment from your glorious throne. As Son and spotless lamb, I shed my blood to bring them boldly to your face, my God. I, Christ the Son, bear all their sin alone. Embracing judgment from your glorious throne. As Son and spotless Lamb I shed my blood to bring them boldly to your face, my God. Forsake not man but me, your sinless Son.”	
*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.	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles' Creed	UMH 881
	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.	
TIME FOR CHILDREN		Janet Galindo & Courtney Hutchins
*SONG OF PREPARATION	'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus	UMH 462
*SCRIPTURE	John 15:1-17	Rev. Sylvia Kiboko & Rev. Steven Newcomb
	The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!	
SERMON	Get Connected	Rev. Lance Richards
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Ken Coneby

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

Rev. Ken Coneby & Congregation

**Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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

*SONG OF BLESSING

O Come To The Altar

Brown, Brock, Furtick, & Joye

Copyright: © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing

**Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling.**

**Have you come to the end of yourself?
Do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling.**

*Chorus: O come to the altar; the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.*

**Leave behind your regrets and mistakes;
come today there's no reason to wait. Jesus is calling.**

**Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy.
From the ashes a new life is born. Jesus is calling. *(sing chorus twice)***

*Bridge: Oh what a Savior. Isn't he wonderful? Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen!
Bow down before him for he is Lord of all. Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen! *(repeat bridge; sing chorus twice)**

**Bear your cross as you wait for the crown;
tell the world of the treasure you've found.**

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Amanda Davis, Rev. Steven Newcomb, & Rev. Ken Coneby

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Give Me Jesus (v. 1 & Refrain)

UMH 546

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

POSTLUDE

March

Humphrey John Stewart

*Please stand as you are able.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Crystal Smith, and in celebration of 31 years of marriage, by her husband, Richard Smith.

UMH hymns are Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Hymnal, by The United Methodist Publishing House.

The Faith We Sing hymns are copyright 2000 by Abingdon Press.

Worship & Song hymns are Copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press.

CCLI License #451160

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

THE SOURCE PASTOR

Rev. Ken Coneby

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Rev. Amanda Davis

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Cynthia Douglas

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Janet Galindo

ALTAR UMOJA PASTOR

Rev. Sylvia Kiboko

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

THE SOURCE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Anthony Rogers

PIANIST

Jeremy Wood