

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service
September 1, 2024 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

PRELUDE For All the Saints arr. by Hayes and Gaspard

*CALL TO WORSHIP To God Be the Glory (v1; refrain) UMH 98

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.**

*Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!*

*WELCOME Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*HYMN OF WELCOME Forward Through the Ages UMH 555

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
manifold the service, one the sure reward.**

*Refrain: Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

**Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light;
for it we must labor, till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,
poets sung its glory, heroes for it died. (sing refrain)**

**Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal. (sing refrain)**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Walk to Emmaus Rev. Steven Newcomb

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Steven Newcomb

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Shall We Gather at the River? *by John Carter*

Sanctuary Choir; Treshell Evans and Michelle Sanchez, soloists
Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.
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.
Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown.
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.
Deep river, my home is over Jordan, deep river,
I want to cross over into campground.
Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Deep river, I want to cross over into campground.
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
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.
That flows by the throne of God.

*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.**

*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

Leader: Hear the good news... ..in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

Leader and People: *Glory to God. Amen.*

*RESPONSE OF ASSURANCE Because He Lives (Refrain)

UMH 364

Refrain: **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.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE)

Courtney Hutchins

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Christ, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 550

**Christ, from whom all blessings flow, perfecting the saints below,
hear us, who thy nature share, who thy mystic body are.**

**Join us, in one spirit join, let us still receive of thine;
still for more on thee we call, thou who fillest all in all.**

**Move and actuate and guide, diverse gifts to each divide;
placed according to thy will, let us all our work fulfill;**

**Never from thy service move, needful to each other prove;
use the grace on each bestowed, tempered by the art of God.**

**Many are we now, and one, we who Jesus have put on;
there is neither bond nor free, male nor female, Lord, in thee.**

**Love, like death, hath all destroyed, rendered all distinctions void;
names and sects and parties fall; thou, O Christ, art all in all!**

*SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Rev. Lance Richards

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

I Believe...the Communion of Saints

Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*HYMN OF INVITATION For the Bread Which You Have Broken

UMH 614

**For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**By this pledge that you do love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**With our sainted ones in glory seated at the heavenly board,
may the church that's waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**

**In your service, Lord, defend us, in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world where you have sent us, let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh, Rev. Lance Richards;

Rev. Steven Newcomb

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Leader ...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Leader and People: 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!

Leader: ...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Leader and People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: ...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Leader and People: Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Blessed

by Brad Nix

Sanctuary Choir

Blessed are the broken hearts, betrayed by pain and loss,
I was once forsaken, and alone upon a cross.
Blessed are the faces of uncertainty and dread.
I had no home in this world, no place to lay my head.
Blessed are the givers, who take nothing for themselves.
I became a servant too, and offered up myself.
Blessed are the innocent with wonder in their hearts.
Every child who came to me I welcomed in my arms.
All who hunger for me, and do as I have done.
I will give you comfort, and fill you, ev'ryone.
You are all God's children, and great is your reward.
You will see the Father, the kingdom shall be yours.
Blessed are the merciful, who share the gift of grace,
Out of love I pardoned you, and suffered in your place.
Blessed are the ones who build the bridges that restore.
I was born the Prince of Peace with power to transform.
Blessed are the broken hearts, blessed are the givers,
Blessed are the innocent, blessed are the merciful.
Blessed are the ones who build for the kingdom shall be yours. It shall be yours.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SONG

Albert Hay Malotte

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.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Steven Newcomb; Ron Sledge

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE We Believe in One True God (v. 3)

UMH 85

We confess the Holy Ghost, who from both fore'er proceeds;

who upholds and comforts us in all trials, fears, and needs.

Blest and Holy Trinity, praise forever be to thee!

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Old Hundredth

by Robert Hebble

*Please stand as you are able.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Crystal Smith
on her birthday by her husband, Richard Smith.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Rev. Amanda Davis

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN

Courtney Hutchins

DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Dr. Terry Morris

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND ADULT DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

Rev. Steven Newcomb

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

& DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards

PIANIST

Jeremy Wood