

SERVICE OF THE WORD | SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

First United Methodist Church, Houston

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

February 23, 2025

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PRELUDE	Great is Thy Faithfulness 1979 Hope Publishing Company	<i>arr. Ovid Young (9:00)</i>
	Great is Thy Faithfulness 2012 Hope Publishing Company	<i>arr. Joel Raney (11:00)</i>
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Jesus Calls Us (v. 4)	UMH 398
	<b>In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"</b>	
*WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Davis
*HYMN OF WELCOME	Great is Thy Faithfulness	UMH 140
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Joining Together Downtown	Rev. Lance Richards
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Amanda Davis (9:00)   Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	This World is Not My Home Copyright 2012; Highwoods Music Publishing Sanctuary Choir	<i>arr. Mauldin &amp; McPheeters</i>
	And I can't feel at home in this world anymore. This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue; the angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. O Lord, you know I have no friend like you. If heaven's not my home then Lord, what will I do? The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. They're all expecting me, and that's one thing I know, my Savior pardoned me and now I onward go; I know he'll take me thru tho' I am weak and poor. And I can't feel at home in this world anymore. O Lord, you know I have no friend like you. If heaven's not my home then Lord, what will I do? The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. I have a loving Savior up in gloryland, I don't expect to stop until I with him stand, he's waiting now for me in heaven's open door. And I can't feel at home in this world anymore! Just up in gloryland we'll live eternally, the saints on ev'ry hand are shouting victory. Their songs of sweetest praise drift back from heaven's shore, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. O Lord, you know I have no friend like you. If heaven's not my home then Lord, what will I do? The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.	
*DOXOLOGY	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH 95
	<b>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.</b>	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostle's Creed	UMH 881
		Rev. Amanda Davis (9:00)   Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
	<b>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.</b>	
*GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father	UMH 70
	<b>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.</b>	
TIME FOR CHILDREN		Janet Galindo (9:00)   Courtney Hutchins (11:00)
*HYMN OF PREPARATION	What a Friend We Have in Jesus	UMH 526

\*SCRIPTURE Nehemiah 6:15-16, 8:1-12 Rev. Lance Richards  
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Kinship Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Rev. Lance Richards

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you 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.**

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR Rev. Amanda Davis

\*HYMN OF BLESSING My Hope is Built UMH 368

\*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Amanda Davis & Rev. Lance Richards (9:00) | Rev. Dr. Eric & Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Take My Life and Let It Be (v. 3) UMH 399

**Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

\*POSTLUDE In Thee is Joy (PDM) *J. S. Bach*

\*Please stand as you are able.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the Downtown altar today are given by the Logos Class in memory of our faithful and dear classmate, Bob Stover.

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#### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST	Paul Butt
EXECUTIVE PASTOR	Rev. Amanda Davis
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Cynthia Douglas
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR (WEST CAMPUS)	Janet Galindo
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN	Courtney Hutchins
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Dr. Terry Morris
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR & DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY	Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
SENIOR PASTOR	Rev. Lance Richards
PIANIST	Jeremy Wood

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