SERVICE OF THE WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service September 8, 2024 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

PRELUDE Great is Thy Faithfulness arr. by Joel Raney

*CALL TO WORSHIP To God Be the Glory (v. 1 + R)

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 floodgate 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. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF WELCOME Lord, Whose Love through

Humble Service (v 1-3)

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed; we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving your abundant life to share.

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Rev. Lance Richards

Child: Rhett Ledger Ashmun

and Rev. Amanda Davis

Born: 1/19/2024

Parents: Jared and Maci Ashmun

BAPTISMAL CHORUS -Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 1)

UMH400

UMH 98

UMH 581

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

Congregation Responds: We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Rhett in your care?

Congregation Responds: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Rhett with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Rev. Amanda Davis

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**. Let us pray.

Eternal Father...may share in his final victory. Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Lance Richards

Rhett Ledger Ashmun, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rhett Ledger Ashmun, The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born again through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rev. Lance Richards

...confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

The congregation responds:

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.

BLESSING Rev. Lance Richards

The God of all grace...that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

BAPTISMAL CHORUS - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 3)

UMH 400

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Volunteer Recognition Rev. Lance Richards, and Appreciation Valerie Harrison,

and Sandi Miller

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Steven Newcomb

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Great is Thy Faithfulness by Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my father! There is no shadow of turning with thee!

Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see! All I have needed thy hand hath provided

Great is thy faithfulness, lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest;

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness

to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow;

Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see! All I have needed thy hand hath provided, Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me! Amen.

*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 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.

*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 (LIVE) Rev. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive UMH 390

"Forgive our sins as we forgive" you taught us, Lord, to pray; but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart

that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew: what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease; then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

*SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:12, 14-15 Rev. Lance Richards

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

MESSAGE I Believe...the Forgiveness of Sins Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev Steven Newcomb

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN) Rev. Steven Newcomb

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.

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR Rev. Lance Richards

*HYMN OF BLESSING Take My Life and Let It Be UMH 399

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

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.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Steven Newcomb

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Lord, Whose Love through UMH 581

Humble Service (v 4)

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

*POSTLUDE Toccata Pontificale by Gordon Young

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of Wes Hall by the Holland family.

CRADLE CROSS

The cradle cross on the altar today is in honor of Mia Fonseca, born July 11, 2024 to parents Rachel Menchaca and Raymond Fonseca.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR SENIOR PASTOR PIANIST VOLUNTEERS Paul Butt Rev. Amanda Davis Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Steven Newcomb

Rev. Lance Richards
Jeremy Wood
Valerie Harrison and Sandi Miller

^{*}Please stand as you are able.