SERVICE OF THE WORD EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service September 22, 2024 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

PRELUDE Amazing Grace arr. Hayes and Gaspard

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

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. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF WELCOME Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above UMH 709
Come, let us join our friends above who have obtained the prize,
And on the eagle wings of love to joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven are one.

One family we dwell in him, one church above, beneath, though now divided by the stream, the narrow stream of death; one army of the living God, to his command we bow; part of his host have crossed the flood, and part are crossing now.

Ten thousand to their endless home this solemn moment fly, and we are to the margin come, and we expect to die. E'en now by faith we join our hands with those that went before, and greet the blood-besprinkled bands on the eternal shore.

Our spirits too shall quickly join, like theirs with glory crowned, and shout to see our Captain's sign to hear this trumpet sound. O that we now might grasp our Guide! O that the word were given! Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves divide, and land us all in heaven.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Leaving a Legacy Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC The Gate of Heaven Craig Courtney
Sanctuary Choir

Lord of the cloud and fire, my heart is in your hand.
From the darkness lift me to the light. Your will my soul command.
Lord of the cloud and fire, lead me to worlds unknown.
Light Eternal, you alone can change the darkness into dawn.
From the darkness to the Light, led by the Lord of cloud and fire,

at Heaven's gate I stand.

From the darkness to the Light, led by the Lord of cloud and fire, by faith I stand at Heaven's gate, the house of God.

Rise, shine. Give God glory.

Lord of the cloud and fire, I bow before your throne. By faith at Heaven's gate, I stand, and find it home. *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 Rev. Steven Newcomb 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)

Courtney Hutchins

*HYMN OF PREPARATION Christ the Victorious

UMH 653

Christ the victorious, give to your servants rest with your saints in the region of light. Grief and pain ended, and sighing no longer, there may they find everlasting life.

Only Immortal one! mighty Creator!
We are your creatures and children of earth.
From earth you formed us, both glorious and mortal, and to the earth shall we all return.

God-spoken prophecy, word at creation: "You came from dust and to dust shall return."
Yet at the grave shall we raise up our glad song, "Alleluia, Alleluia!"

Christ the victorious, give to your servants rest with your saints in the region of light. Grief and pain ended, and sighing no longer, there may they find everlasting life.

*SCRIPTURE Revelation 21:1-7 Rev. Lance Richards

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

MESSAGE I Believe...the Life Everlasting 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 When We All Get to Heaven UMH 701
Sing the wondrous love of Jesus; sing his mercy and his grace.

In the mansions bright and blessed he'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain: When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will overspread the sky; but when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh. (sing refrain)

Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day; just one glimpse of him in glory will the toils of life repay. (sing refrain)

Onward to the prize before us! Soon his beauty we'll behold; soon the pearly gates will open; we shall tread the streets of gold (sing refrain)

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Amanda Davis and Rev. Steven Newcomb

*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 Prelude and Chaconne Dieterich Buxtehude

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR
SENIOR PASTOR
PIANIST

Paul Butt Rev. Amanda Davis Courtney Hutchins Dr. Terry Morris

Rev. Steven Newcomb Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood

^{*}Please stand as you are able.