## SERVICE OF THE WORD TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service October 27, 2024| 11:00 am | Sanctuary

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PRELUDE	More Love to Thee, O Christ and When in Our Music God is Glori			
*CALL TO WORSHIP Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom (v. 1 & 5) UMH 508 Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit; faith can feel the thrill of harvest when the buds begin to sprout.				
Faith believes that God is faithful: God will be what God will be! Faith accepts the call, responding, "I am willing, Lord, send me."				
*WELCOME		Rev. Steven Newcomb		
*HYMN OF WELCOME God of Love and God of Power UMH 578 God of love and God of power, grant us in this burning hour grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.				
Refrain: God of lo	ove and God of power, thou has ca	lled us for this hour.		
We are not the first to be banished by our fears from thee; give us courage, let us hear heaven's trumpets ringing clear. (sing refrain)				
All our lives belong to thee, thou our final loyalty; slaves are we whene'er we share that devotion anywhere. (sing refrain)				
God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour; offering lives if it's thy will, keeping free our spirits still. (sing refrain)				
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Agape Market & Commitment Sunday	Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh & Rev. Lance Richards		
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Lance Richards		
OFFERING OUR GIFT	S TO GOD	Congregation		
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Well Done My Faithful Servant Sanctuary Choir	by Pepper Choplin		
O Lord, you give us everything we treasure, you give us every talent we possess. And all that we invest in your kingdom, we know that you will bless. We bring our gifts and talents to your altar and listen to your Spirit as we pray. We are list'ning so whenever we are true to your calling, we can almost hear you say: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Well done, feel the pleasure of your Lord. Well done, share the joy of the Lord, your God. My good and faithful one, well done." "Beloved ones, I see your faithfulness, do not be discouraged. Do not worry about success. I will surely come to bless. I will bless you far beyond your earthly blessings. Look forward to the glory of the day when you come and stand before your heavenly mansion, you'll rejoice to hear me say, "Well done, feel the pleasure of your Lord. Well done, share the joy of the Lord, your God. My good and faithful one, well done."				
*OFFERING RESPONS Bless thou the gi	SE Bless Thou the Gifts fts our hands have brought;	UMH 587		

bless thou the work our hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;

the rest, O God, is in thy hand. \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed, UMH 881 Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh 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 **UMH 70** Glory Be to the Father 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 What Gift Can We Bring **UMH 87** What gift can we bring, what present, what token? What words can convey it, the joy of this day? When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, what song can we offer in honor and praise? Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision, who planted and watered so dreams could come true. Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship, for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed. Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises, for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring, the Word is our promise always, forever; we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love. This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise! \*SCRIPTURE Ephesians 3:14-21 Rev. Lance Richards The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. MESSAGE Filled 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

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.

as thou has sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.					
Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;					
*HYMN OF BLESSING	Lord, Speak to Me	UMH 463			
INVITATION TO THE ALTAR		Rev. Lance Richards			
COMMISSIONING OF CUBA MISSIONARIES		Rev. Lance Richards			

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart; and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where, until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh			
		& Rev. Steven Newcome			
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lance Richards			
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	God, Who Stretched	UMH 150			
	,				
the Spangled Heavens (v. 4)					
As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,					
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.					
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.					
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.					
*POSTLUDE	Toccata in D minor	by J. S. Bach			

\*Please stand as you are able.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given in memory of Joanne Tittle Craig by Ellen and Gary Hickman.

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND ADULT DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR/ DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY SENIOR PASTOR PIANIST

Paul Butt Courtney Hutchins Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Steven Newcomb

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood