SERVICE OF THE WORD TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST |

First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service November 10, 2024 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

PRELUDE Grace Greater than Our Sin arr. by Fred Bock
And God Will Take Care of You

*CALL TO WORSHIP Where Charity and Love Prevail (vs. 1-2, 4) UMH 549

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease; be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

*WELCOME Rev. Steven Newcomb

*HYMN OF WELCOME Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here UMH 579

Lord God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for love were made;

your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed;

we come, with all our heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong, half free, half bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along, by powers and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for humankind.

Lord God, in Christ you call our name, and then receive us as your own; not through some merit, right, or claim, but by your gracious love alone; we strain to glimpse your mercy seat, and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and call us friends; suffer and serve till all are fed, and show how grandly love intends to work till all creation sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Lord God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share; give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair, and offer all that faith can do, while love is making all things new.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Agape Market & Rev. Steven Newcomb & Rev. Lance Richards Stewardship Update

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC God and God Alone arr. by Fettke & Grassi
Sanctuary Choir

God and God alone created all these things we call our own.

From the mighty to the small, the glory in them all is God's and God's alone.

God and God alone reveals the truth of all we call unknown.

And all the best and worst of man won't change the Master's plan, it's God's and God's alone.

Our sov'reign God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne.

Let ev'rything that lives reserve its truest praise

for God and God alone.

God and God alone will be the joy of our eternal home.

He will be our one desire. Our hearts will never tire of God and God alone.

God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne.

Let ev'rything that lives reserve its truest praise for God and God alone,

God and God alone, is fit to take the universe's throne.

Let ev'rything that lives reserve its truest praise for God and God alone.

Give praise to God! God and God alone!

*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.

*CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER The Prayer of St. Francis

UMH 481

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

*PRAYER RESPONSE There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (vs. 1 & 4) UMH 121 There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word; and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE)

Courtney Hutchins

*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 bid 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 5:43-48 Rev. Lance Richards

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

MESSAGE Love Friend & Love Foe Rev. Lance Richards

CALL TO PRAYER Eternal Father, Strong to Save (vs. 1 & 3) TFWS 2191 Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave, who bid the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude, and bid its angry tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace: O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

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 Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee

UMH 562

Jesus, Lord, we look to thee; let us in thy name agree; show thyself the Prince of Peace, bid our strife forever cease.

By thy reconciling love every stumbling block remove; each to each unite, endear; come, and spread thy banner here.

Make us of one heart and mind, gentle, courteous, and kind, lowly, meek, in though and word, altogether like our Lord.

Let us for each other care, each the other's burdens bear; to thy church the pattern give, show how true believers live.

Free from anger and from pride, let us thus in God abide; all the depths of love express, all the heights of holiness.

Let us then with joy remove to the family above; on the wings of angels fly, show how true believers die.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Steven Newcomb & Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

UMH 560

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Help Us Accept Each Other (vs. 2)
Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

*POSTLUDE

Postlude for Veterans' Day

arr. by Lloyd Larson

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of Alan and Carol Jones, by their daughter Martha Ann Jones.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

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

Paul Butt
Courtney Hutchins
Dr. Terry Morris
Rev. Steven Newcomb
Rev. Lance Richards
Jeremy Wood

^{*}Please stand as you are able.