

SERVICE OF THE WORD AND TABLE
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
First United Methodist Church, Houston
West Campus Traditional Service - 9:00 am - Hinson Chapel | Downtown Campus Traditional Service - 11:00 am - Sanctuary
December 1, 2024

PRELUDE	Sleepers, Awake! by J. S. Bach public domain	
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus	UMH 196
	Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.	
*WELCOME		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
*CAROL OF WELCOME	O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 1-3, 6-7)	UMH 211
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		Mary & Sam Daffin (9:00) The Margle Family (11:00)
SUNG RESPONSE	O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Refrain) <i>Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</i>	UMH 211
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Advent Preview	Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Lo, How a Rose 'ere Blooming Copyright 2015 and 2016 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Sanctuary Choir	<i>arr. Jay Rouse</i>
	Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night. Of the Father's love begotten ere the world began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung evermore and evermore! Evermore!	
*OFFERING RESPONSE	O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 3)	UMH 230
	How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.	
*INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE		Rev. Lance Richards
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Rev. Lance Richards
	Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved you with our whole hearts. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	
*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS		Rev. Lance Richards
	Hear the good news... ...in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.	
*SUNG RESPONSE	Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain) <i>Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</i>	UMH 238
TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE)		Janet Galindo (9:00) Courtney Hutchins (11:00)
*CAROL OF PREPARATION	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	UMH 206
*SCRIPTURE	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Rev. Lance Richards
	The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!	
MESSAGE	Abound in Love	Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Steven Newcomb (9:00)
Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)

*CAROL OF INVITATION

God Almighty, We Are Waiting

W&S 3047

God Almighty, we are waiting for a Savior to appear. Meet us in our desert journey, give a sign that you are near: burning bushes, parted waters, food aplenty in the wild. As we look for signs and wonders, help us see you in a child.

God Incarnate, we are waiting for the feast day of your birth. Looking back and looking forward to the Christ's return to earth. Help us to proclaim the gospel, 'til the world is reconciled. Let us set your holy table for each woman, man, and child.

God the Spirit, we are waiting for your presence here and now. Humbled by our sinful weakness, at your mercy we will bow. Search our hearts and make us ready, speak in language strong and mild, help each one of us, your people, to receive you like a child.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Steven Newcomb & Rev. Lance Richards (9:00)
Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh, Rev. Lance Richards & Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence,
Copyright 2012 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Craig Courtney

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending, comes our homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way; as the Light of light descending from the realms of endless day, comes the powers of hell to vanquish as the darkness clears away. At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Lord Most High!

*THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SONG

The Lord's Prayer
Copyright 1935 by G. Shirmer, Inc.

arr. Albert Hay Malotte.

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

Rev. Steven Newcomb & Rev. Lance Richards (9:00)
Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh & Rev. Amanda Davis (11:00)

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Refrain)

UMH 206

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God, by J. S. Bach
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*Please stand as you are able.

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Cynthia Douglas

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FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR/ DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

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SENIOR PASTOR

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