

SERVICE OF THE WORD | SECOND 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 8, 2024

PRELUDE	Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine Copyright 1962, Belwin Mills	<i>arranged by Claude Means</i>
*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. Amanda Davis (9:00) Rev. Steven Newcomb (11:00)
*CAROL OF WELCOME	Blessed Be the God of Israel Hymn Tune AURELIA (UMH 545: The Church's One Foundation)	UMH 209
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		Byrom Wehner (9:00) Rachel Menchaca & Raymond and Mia Fonseca (11:00)
SUNG RESPONSE	O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Refrain)	UMH 211
	<i>Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</i>	
FINANCIAL UPDATE		Rev. Lance Richards
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Advent Opportunities to Get Connected & Go!	Rev. Amanda Davis (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Amanda Davis (9:00) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (11:00)
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	How Great Our Joy Copyright 2012, Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Sanctuary Choir	<i>Craig Courtney</i>
*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.	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Nicene Creed	UMH 880
	We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.	Rev. Amanda Davis (9:00) Rev. Steven Newcomb (11:00)
*GLORIA	Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain)	UMH 238
	<i>Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</i>	
TIME FOR CHILDREN		Janet Galindo (9:00) Courtney Hutchins (11:00)

*CAROL OF PREPARATION View the Present Through the Promise W&S 3048
**View the present through the promise, Christ will come again. Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.
Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing in the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again.
Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again. Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.
Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.
Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again. Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.
Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.**

*SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:3-11 Rev. Lance Richards
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Determine What Really Matters Rev. Lance Richards

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN) UMH 895
**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.**
Rev. Amanda Davis (9:00)
Rev. Steven Newcomb (11:00)

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR Rev. Lance Richards

*CAROL OF BLESSING Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates UMH 213

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Amanda Davis & Rev. Lance Richards (9:00)
Rev. Steven Newcomb & Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh (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 Good Christian Men Rejoice *arranged by Norman Dello Joio*
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*Please stand as you are able.

ALTAR FLOWERS
The flowers on the altar in the Downtown Sanctuary today are given in honor
of Kim Burton's birthday and her service to the choir, by Aaron and Bonnie Jones.

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST	Paul Butt
EXECUTIVE PASTOR	Rev. Amanda Davis
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Cynthia Douglas
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR (WEST CAMPUS)	Janet Galindo
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN	Courtney Hutchins
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC	Dr. Terry Morris
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR	Rev. Steven Newcomb
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR/ DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY	Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
SENIOR PASTOR	Rev. Lance Richards
PIANIST	Jeremy Wood