

SERVICE OF THE WORD | FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
First United Methodist Church, Houston
Downtown Campus Traditional Service - 11:00 am - Sanctuary
December 29, 2024

PRELUDE Carol Rhapsody *by R. Purvis*
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*CALL TO WORSHIP Angels from the Realms of Glory UMH 220

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: *(sing refrain)***

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *(sing refrain)***

**Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: *(sing refrain)***

*WELCOME Rev. Steven Newcomb

*CAROL OF WELCOME Joy To The World UMH 246

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT Rev. Lance Richards & Rev. Eric Pugh

BAPTISMAL CHORUS Love Has Come (v. 1) Worship & Song 3059

Love has come a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Name of Candidate: Ezekiel Exavier Carlton

...do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Ezekiel in your care? **With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Ezekiel with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

...confirm their hope, and perfect them in love. **We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and of First Methodist Houston we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in and build up the mission and ministries of the church by offering our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

BAPTISMAL CHORUS Love Has Come (v. 3) Worship & Song 3059

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH 2024 Review & Year-End Financial Update Rev. Amanda Davis & Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Steven Newcomb

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Nativity Carol *John Rutter*
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Sanctuary Choir

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; born 'neath light of star he who loved us so.

Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.

Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills.

Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.

Far away, silent he lay born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

*OFFERING RESPONSE	In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 4)	UMH 221
	What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Nicene Creed	UMH 880 Rev. Amanda Davis
	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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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 and his kingdom will have no end. 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.	
*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
*CAROL OF PREPARATION	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	UMH 224
*SCRIPTURE	Colossians 3:12-17	Rev. Lance Richards
	The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
MESSAGE	Live Life Inside Out	Rev. Lance Richards
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Steven Newcomb
INVITATION TO THE ALTAR		Rev. Lance Richards
*CAROL OF BLESSING	Go, Tell It on the Mountain	UMH 251
*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH		Rev. Steven Newcomb, Rev. Amanda Davis, & Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lance Richards
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child	Worship & Song 3060
	Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild; new life, new hope the child will bring. Listen to the angel sing, "Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring.	
*POSTLUDE	God Rest You Merry Gentlemen Unpublished	by Rob Landes

*Please stand as you are able.

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

EXECUTIVE PASTOR	Rev. Amanda Davis
GUEST ORGANIST	Rob Landes
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
