

MORNING WORSHIP

APRIL 17, 2005

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

Our God, Our Help In Ages Past

Hubert Parry

As the prelude begins, let worship begin, as you center your heart on Jesus.

CALL TO PRAYER

Adagio

Rev. Rick Smith

James Konkel

INTROIT

Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord

John Ness Beck

INVOCATION

Rev. Rick Smith

HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

**Praise the Lord! Ye heav'ns adore Him; Praise Him angels, in the height.
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him; Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! For He hath spoken; Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.
Laws which never shall be broken For their guidance hath He made.**

**Praise the Lord! For He is glorious; Never shall His promise fail.
God hath made His saints victorious; Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation! Hosts on high, His pow'r proclaim.
Heav'n and earth, and all creation, Laud and magnify His name.**

**Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, In glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heav'n adore Thee; We would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee, So on earth Thy will be done.**

Based on Psalm 148, tune by Joseph Haydn

PRAYER

Ann Spears/Dr. Steve Wende

Glory be to you, O God, whom we worship in awe and wonder. You are the author of all beginnings and all that is pronounced "good." In you both day and night have purpose, both calm and storm have meaning. Open the eyes of our imagination that we may be ready to receive you gifts and discern your activity in our midst. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

THE CREATION

Joseph Haydn

Part I

Recitative: Raphael (Bass)

In the beginning, God made Heaven and Earth; and the Earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Chorus

And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters; and God said: Let there be light. And there was light.

Recitative: Uriel (Tenor)

And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

Aria with Chorus: Uriel

Now vanish before the holy beams the gloomy shades of ancient night. The first of days appears. Now chaos ends and order prevails. Affrighted fly hell's Spirits back in thrones, down they sink in the deep abyss to endless night.

Chorus

Despairing, cursing rage attends their rapid fall. A new created world springs up at God's command.

Recitative: Raphael

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. Then howling raged the blast of the tempest. The clouds then were driven like chaff in the wind, the lightnings slashed the heavens asunder, and crashing thunder resounded on high. From waters rose at his command the all-refreshing rain, the devastating hail, the light and flaky snow.

Solo and Chorus: Gabriel (Soprano)

What wonder doth his work reveal to heaven's host in joyful throng, and to the ethereal vaults resound the praise of God, and of the Second Day.

Chorus

And to the ethereal vaults resound the praise of God and of the Second Day.

Recitative: Raphael

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of the waters called he the seas; and God saw that it was good.

Recitative: Gabriel

And God said: Let all the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth; and it was so.

Aria: Gabriel

Now robed in cool refreshing green, the fields their new enchantment wear; and more to charm the sight arise the flowers in bright array. Here herbs of every leaf abound; here dwells a healing grace. The burdened boughs their golden fruit afford; here arbors spread their vaulted, restful shade, and lofty hills are crowned with kingly groves.

Recitative: Uriel

And the heavenly host proclaimed the Third Day, praising God and saying:

Chorus

Awake the harp, the lyre awake, and let your joyful song resound. Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God; For He both heaven and earth has clothed in stately dress.

Recitative: Uriel

And God said: Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night, to give their light upon the earth; and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years. He made the stars also.

Recitative: Uriel

In shining splendor, radiant now the sun bestrides the sky; a wondrous, joyful bridegroom, a giant proud and glad, he runs his ordered course.

With softer steps and wistful shimmer, steals the moon through still enshadowed night. The boundless vaults of heaven's domain shine with unnumbered magnitude of stars. And the sons of God rejoiced in the Fourth Day in chorus divine, praising God's great might, and saying:

Chorus with Trio: The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of His work displays the firmament.

To day that is coming speaks it the day, the night that is gone to following night. In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Ann Spears

GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Ann Spears

Children's Worship will not meet today so children can participate in this Music Sunday

Part II

Recitative: Gabriel

And God said: Let the waters bring forth abundantly every moving creature that hath life, and fowl that fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

Recitative: Raphael

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth; and God blessed them, saying: Be fruitful all and multiply, ye creatures of the sky; be multiplied, and fill the air with singing! Multiply, ye

creatures of the waters, and fill each watery deep! Be fruitful, grow and multiply! Rejoice in the Lord your God!

Recitative: Raphael

And the angels struck their immortal harps and sang the wonders of the Fifth Day.

Chorus with Trio

The Lord is great, and great his might, The Lord is great, his glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

Recitative: Raphael

And God said: Let earth bring forth every living creature after his kind, cattle and creeping things, and beast of the earth after his kind

Recitative: Raphael

Straight opening her fertile womb, the earth brings forth at God's command unnumbered living creatures, in perfect forms and fully grown. Triumphant, roaring stands the lion there. With a lightning leap, the tiger appears. Bounding with branching head, the nimble stag. With snorting and stamping, flying mane, uprears in might the noble steed. In pleasant pastures, quietly the cattle graze on meadows green. And o'er the ground, as growing there, abide the fleecy, gentle sheep. As clouds of dust arise, in swarms assembled the host of insects. In long dimension creeps, with sinuous trace, the worm.

Recitative: Uriel

And God created Man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female, created he them. And God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Man became a living soul.

Aria: Uriel

In native worth and honor clad, with beauty, strength and courage formed, toward heaven raised uprightly, stands a man, the lord and king of nature all. His broad and arching, noble brow proclaims of wisdom's deep abode, and in his eyes with brightness shines the soul, the breath and image of his God. And to his breast he softly holds one of and for him formed, his other self, his pure delight. With virgin grace so sweetly given as springtime's charms bestowed, she loves him, yields her joy and bliss.

Recitative: Raphael

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good; and the heavenly choir loud rejoicing raised their song of praise and hailed the Sixth Day.

Chorus

Achieved is the glorious work; our song let be the praise of God. Glory to His name for ever. He sole on high exalted reigns. Hallelujah.

PRAYER

Ann Spears/Dr. Steve Wende

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

#139

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
Who with his love doth befriend thee.**

Based on Psalm 150

BENEDICTION

Rev. Rick Smith

SUNG RESPONSE

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; Gladly forever adore him.**

POSTLUDE

Finale

Charles-Marie Widor

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of Pauline Nondorf, given by Kurt and Marlene Nondorf and children.

ACOLYTES

8:45 a.m. Hunter Beltz and Matthew Ostlind

11 a.m. Ben MacDonald and Chris MacDonald

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kermit Henson

Edwin Obune

Joy Wilson

MUSIC LEADERSHIP

SOLOISTS

Laura Avery-Hill, Gabriel;

Jason Oby, Uriel; Dennis Arrowsmith; Raphael

Carol Ostlind, Alex Mendoza, Richard Files

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Sophia Silvios, Kurt Johnson, Sylvia Ver Meulen - first violin

Erica Robinsin, Katie Sloan, Maria Lin – second violin

Rita Porfiris, Suzanne LeFevre, Eva Sheie - viola

Barry Sills, Steve Laven - cello

Eric Gronfor – string bass

Melissa Suhr, Mercedes Smith - flute

Robert Atherholt, Linda Gilbert - oboe

Michael Webster , Molly Mayfield - clarinet

Karl Vilcins - bassoon

Sarah Cranston, Julia Erdman – French horn

Richard Brown – timpani and contractor

The instrumental ensemble this morning is made possible by the generous gifts of many to the Woodward Fund of the Ministry of Music, Downtown. Your continued participation is encouraged and most welcome.

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

*The Sanctuary Choir Council

Jeri Ann Adams	David Hamilton*	Anexial Muckelroy
Stan Adams*	Pat Hodges*	Jason Oby*
Jan Arnold	Pam Holub	Sandi Odell*
Dennis Arrowsmith	Dale Imig	Carol Ostlind
Laura Avery-Hill	John Paul Jones	James Park
Erma Axelson	Amanda Khan*	Karen Park*
Dee Balderas	Rick Kiley*	Kisa Parker
Kristen Barron	Patti Kiley	Michelle Powers
Bonnie Barton	Barbara Kirkpatrick	Brad Sayles
Pat Bonner*	Dan Kirkpatrick	Tricia Sayles
Helen Cummings*	John Knight	Darleen Schauer*
Ross Mary	Ervin Kroll	Paul Serna
Dalrymple*	Sally Lanz*	Jeffrey Short
Alvretta DeVillier*	Kathryn Lee*	Abby Smith
Gene Dirr	Mary Lewis	Rick Smith
Bernie Embrey*	Merry Marcotte	Gwen Syzdek
Charles Euton	Mary Marriott	Jane Thompson
Andrea Fleming	Deborah Mathews	Juan Trujillo
Linda Fleming	Robert Melling	Tonya Walker-Haack
Tamara Fleming	Alex Mendoza	Vicki Westbrook
Richard Files*	Clint Moore	Amber Zhang
Lynne Hackedorn*	Martha Moore	
Rike Haj*	Sandra Miller	

Kenneth Axelson, Director
David Henning, Organist

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
In the Bintliff Chapel

Communion and Healing Service
Sunday at 6 p.m.

Sunday at 12:05 p.m. Worship at Six

Rick Smith, preaching

Mid-week Communion

Wednesday at 12:35 p.m.

Immediately following Spring Suites

HOW TO JOIN THE FAMILY

We would love to have you join the First Methodist family today by committing your life to Christ for the first time or by transferring your membership from another church. Simply complete the information below and bring this bulletin to one of our pastors or staff following worship.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Children and their ages _____

WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

First Methodist has been connecting hearts to Christ since 1839. A new beginning in Christ is available for you! If you would like to make peace with God by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, or renew your commitment to Him, the opportunity will be available at the end of today's worship.

Prayer is powerful. Our Prayer Ministers and Pastors are here to pray with you before and after worship. In addition, *Prayer Cards* are in the pews for you to submit. Your need will be lifted in prayer throughout the week.

Communion and Healing is offered each Sunday following our 11 a.m. service in the Bintliff Chapel, as well as each Wednesday at 12:05 p.m.

As a courtesy, please turn off pagers and cellular phones before worship begins.

Hearing Enhancement Devices are available at the sound booth.

The nursery is located on the first floor, with excellent, loving care for infants to Pre-K.

The Cry Room is located just inside the Main Street entrance to the Sanctuary. The Bride's Room near the Bintliff Chapel is available for nursing moms.

Children's Worship Packets (with crayons and activity sheets) are available from ushers or from the baskets at the Clay Street or balcony entrances to the Sanctuary.

Children's Worship for children in K through 3rd Grade meets during 11 a.m. worship. Parents sign children into Room 214 (behind the center balcony) during the second hymn (about 11:25 a.m.). Children's Worship does not meet on Communion Sunday or Music Sundays.

Audio Tapes and CD's of the service are available at 12:05 p.m. each Sunday in the Book Nook, along with other resources for personal growth. Additional audio and video tapes, DVD and CD copies of worship and message may be ordered there or by calling 832.668.1834.

Sunday School classes for all ages are offered at 9:50 a.m. each week. For more information come to the Welcome Center or pick up a Sunday School brochure from a literature rack.

General Information to help you get involved in the growth and ministries of the First Methodist family is available in the Lobby racks.

Watch us on TV, live at 11 a.m. on Channels 55 (Warner) and 73 (Phonoscope). On satellite, Direct or Dish Networks, we may be found on Channels 952 and 8382, respectively, also at 11 a.m. Channel 13 carries the service, one week tape delayed, at 5:30 a.m. Sundays. **Tune in on the radio** at KHCB (105.7 FM) every Sunday at 8 p.m. for *First Methodist Today*.

*Our mission is to be and to make fully devoted
followers of Jesus Christ.*

1320 MAIN STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS, 77002
832.668.1800

Pastor on call: option 7

Prayer Request Line: 832.668.1818

For a Stephen Minister: 713.458.4709

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.fmhouston.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Connecting hearts to Christ since 1839

FIRST FACTS

Spring Suites - from Bach to Broadway - continues Wednesday noons in the Downtown Sanctuary. A delicious lunch, catered by *Crumly Cogwheels*, will be served continuously in Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. for only \$5. Please make lunch and child care reservations no later than Monday noon by calling 832.668.1800. **This Wednesday, April 20 - The Texas Southern University Concert Choir** will present a program under the direction of Dr. Jason Oby. The featured work will be *Five Mystical Songs* by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. The remainder of the program will consist of Negro Spirituals in arrangements by Houston composers. **On Wednesday, April 27**, Kisa Parker and Alex Mendoza will present a program of Broadway favorites.

Change The World: Purchase Stock in Youth Missions. During April, over 50 High School and College students will be selling stock for overseas summer mission trips. Please show your support by seeking them out in the Lobby. Let's join together and send them to serve as ambassadors of First Methodist Houston around the world. From a dump in Nicaragua to Tsunami relief in Thailand, you can help change the world!

Prayer Service on Sunday, May 1, sponsored by our Family Council. Come for

lunch in Fellowship Hall after 11 a.m. Worship followed by a prayer service led by Rev. Jonathan Bynum in the Sanctuary. Meal cost is \$5 per adult and \$2 for a child's basket. Childcare is provided and older children can participate in hands-on prayer activities. Reservations are needed by April 24 and may be made at the table in the Lobby or by calling Erika at 832.668.1827.

Parentalk Series Comes to First Methodist. Please help us share the word with workers in your office about this excellent series of Lunch N' Learn workshops on parenting that will begin Wednesday, May 11, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.. These topic specific workshops will help to simplify parenting and increase family harmony. The workshops will be presented by Deborah Cashen and Susan March of Parenting Partnerships, Inc. Pick up fliers to share from the literature racks in the Lobby for information on registration, lunch, and childcare.

Heart and Soul Festival Preview Luncheon - May 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of our church. Dr. Nora Loas, Architectural Historian from the University of Houston, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling Susie Horr at 832.668.1821. Parking is free on our lot on Clay between Main and Fannin.

Heart and Soul Festival - Saturday, May 7, 2005 Explore classic architecture, enjoy dramatic music and tolling bells, and glimpse unique stained glass and art that displays the faith and character that has developed along Main Street, from Houston's Downtown Business area to the Museum District to the city's world-renowned Medical Center. Sixteen historic churches and synagogues along Houston's Main Street Corridor present the second annual Heart and Soul Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 7. All locations offer free tours and scheduled activities throughout the day relating to art, music and gardens. Please visit the website: www.heartandsoulhouston.org

Mother's Day Drive - Food for Hungry Babies. Items collected will go to Casa de Esperanza, L.I.F.E /Houston, Wesley Community Center, and Star of Hope. Items needed are disposable diapers, baby wipes, baby food, baby cereal. Formula, Pedialyte, unscented Keri lotion, hypo-allergenic Dove or Caress bath soap, new or gently used baby clothes, Onesies, baby towels, washcloths. Thank you for your generosity.

Wesley Academy is now accepting applications for the 2005 – 2006 school year for three-year-olds through Grade 8. Tours for prospective families are held every Thursday at 10 a.m. Call 713.266.3341 for more information or go to our website at www.wesleyacademy.net.

CHILDREN

Registration now for *Serengeti Trek!* Join us for a week of Bible-learning fun as we set out for *Serengeti Trek!* Come by the table in the Lobby and register for VBS Downtown, June 20-24. Note the new time is 9:30 – 12:30. Sign up your children and their friends now! Check out this year's extended care with service opportunities and field trips. For more information see Lisa Aldis, Tina Sarton, or Linda Thornton.

Help Host Children's Activities at Heart and Soul Festival on Saturday, May

7. First Methodist is on the tour of historic churches and synagogues along Houston's Main Street Corridor. Come help for a couple hours with craft activities on the Main Street Porch. Contact Jan Imig at 832.668.1841 or jimig@fmhouston.com.

Come join the Summer Sunday School Team! K-3rd graders will experience Awesome Bible Adventures, and 4th and 5th graders will grow in faith as part of covenant discipleship activities. To explore being part of the leadership team contact Jan Imig at 832.668.1841.

YOUTH

All youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to attend **Tres Grande Sunday's Half-Pint Lock In** tonight from 6-8 p.m. at the Westchase Campus. Dodge ball, basketball, pool, video games, rock climbing, movies, pizza and more! DT shuttle will run at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Youth Chorale will rehearse today at 4:15 p.m. in the Choir Room. The Chorale will sing for the early service at the Westchase Campus next Sunday.

5th Grade/Parents Potluck Luncheon with the Youth Ministry Staff, next Sunday, April 24, from 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the Loft Lobby. Information on programs and a tour of the 6th floor Loft.

Graduation Banquet, May 1st, 6-8 p.m. in the Westchase Youth Building with an inspiring message by Rev. Dan Jones, great music, and dinner catered by Outback Steakhouse. Tickets are available through the Youth Dept.

ADULTS

Softball this Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. at the Westchase Quillian fields.

The Annual Pacesetter Joke Telling Contest and Talent Show Luncheon will be held Friday, April 22, 11:30 a.m. Please call the church office, 832.668.1800, by noon Wednesday, April 20, for a lunch reservation.

Quillian summer camp is now hiring for summer camp counselor positions.

Young Adults from 18 to 24 who are interested in a dynamic summer time experience with children should call Mike Hollis at 713.458.4713!

"Spring Cleaning" help needed on April 20 in preparation for the upcoming Heart& Soul Festival. Look for sign-up sheets in your Sunday School packets, or call Ellen Castillo at 832.668.1846 to sign up. Help us show off First Methodist to Houston and let them see why we're so proud of our church!

Quillian Trip for ages 50 and up. On Thursday, April 21, we will go to Schulenburg, Texas and visit two painted churches and a very old Methodist church. We will leave around 8:30 a.m. Cost of trip is \$13 per person which will include lunch. Call Maresa Hammond at 713.947.1355.

McSingles for ages 50 and up and single. Saturday, April 23, we will visit Brenham, Texas. Not only will we see some bluebonnets and Indian paint brushes but we will visit the Pleasant Hill Winery and have lunch at On Deck. We will visit Glasco's Gardens & Gifts and the Antique Rose Emporium. Cost of the trip is \$6

which DOES NOT include lunch. We will leave at 9 a.m Call Maresa Hammond at 713.947.1355 and make your reservation. The bus holds 39 so call early.

Sanctuary Choir. Now is a great time to join this outstanding choral ensemble! Serving in the Ministry of Music is not something nice to do when nothing else is left. It is obedience to Christ's call for stewardship of time and talent in a vital area of the church's life and witness. If you have the ability and desire to serve our church in this way, please call Ken Axelson at 832.668.1823.