



## **Worship Service for November 19, 2023**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Pam Laham
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>*Praise &amp; Worship Songs</b>	Congregation

“Dream God’s Dream”

Dream God’s Dream

Holy Spirit, help us dream

Of a world where there is justice

And where everyone is free

To build and grow and loveAnd to simply have enough

The world will change

When we dream God’s dream

I’m dreaming of a world, where the color of one’s skin

Will mean less than what’s within the person’s heart

A world where water's clean, and where air is safe to  
breathe

And every child born has enough to eat

Dream God's Dream

Holy Spirit, help us dream

Of a world where there is justice

And where everyone is free

To build and grow and love And to simply have enough

The world will change

I'm dreaming of the call God is offering to me

How to use my energy and my best gifts

To do the work of Christ—to say God, please use my life

To spread your healing Love and to live your Truth

Dream God's Dream

Holy Spirit, help us dream

Of a world where there is justice

And where everyone is free

To build and grow and love And to simply have enough

The world will change

I'm dreaming of the way that I want my life to go  
I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to meet  
I'm reaching for the stars, but I won't forget the scars  
Of Christ who died to show that the Dream's for all

Dream God's Dream

Holy Spirit, help us dream

Of a world where there is justice

And where everyone is free

To build and grow and love And to simply have enough

The world will change

**Announcements**

Pam Laham

**Call to Worship**

Pam Laham

LEADER: On our pilgrimage of life and faith, we do  
not walk alone. God is with us! We walk with  
each other!

**ALL: We remember all those who taught us the  
way of stewardship – the witnesses whose**

**example burns bright in our memory and  
inspires our commitments.**

LEADER: God of grace, by whose love the world  
exists –

**ALL: show us your divine light once again and  
reveal to us your glory in all creation.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #384

“For the Faithful Who Have Answered Your Call”

For the faithful who have answered  
when they heard your call to serve,  
for the many ways you led them,  
testing will and stretching nerve,  
For their work and for their witness  
as they strove against the odds,  
for their stewardship and courage,  
we give thanks and praise, O God.

Many minds have glimpsed the promise;  
many hearts have yearned to see;  
many souls have heard you calling  
us to greater liberty.

Some have fallen in the struggle;  
others still are pressing on.

You are not ashamed to love us;  
we give thanks and praise, O God.

For this cloud of faithful witness,  
for the common life we share,  
for the work of peace and justice,  
for the gospel that we bear,  
For the vision that our homeland  
is your love -- deep, high, and broad,  
for the different roads we travel,  
we give thanks and praise, O God.

## **Gathering Prayer**

Pam Laham

**ALL: Precious One, thank you for drawing us into this sacred and safe place that we call our spiritual home. Inspire us with the lives of those who came before us. May we continue here as trustworthy stewards tending to our inheritance of faith. May we join our gifts and giving with their gifts and giving. May we set an example of stewardship as they did. In Jesus' name we pray.**

**Amen.**

## **Biblical Witness**

Pam Laham

**Acts 2:43 - 47 & 1 Peter 4:10**

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time

together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day God added to their number those who were being saved.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

**Contemporary Witness**

Pastor Felix

Faith+Lead

A Website Resource

God gave us starry nights and sunsets that take our breath away.

God gave us summer rainstorms and the crunch of fall leaves.

God gave us the sound of music—choirs singing in harmony.

God gave us blueberry pancakes, Vermont maple syrup, and coffee—that holy bean water that wakes our bones.

God gave us feather down blankets, fall scented candles, and sacred worn down slippers that slide onto weary feet.

God gave us grandmothers that slip candy into our hands and grandfathers that smell like peppermint and books.

God gave us toddlers that bounce up and down to music and smash food into their open mouths like baby birds-with palms flat.

God gave us new years of life, marked by embarrassing renditions of “happy birthday” in restaurants and the extinguishing of a candle on a glorified pastry.

God gave us nurses and doctors, who cover shots with colorful band aids and keep lollipops in their scrub pockets.

God gave us welcome mats and nametags and all manner of things that help us feel at home in a place.

God gave us cats that curl up next to us to lend their warmth and dogs that run and slide to the front door to welcome us home.



God gave us old familiar blue jeans that feel like home,  
and sweaters pulled over hands that feel like security.

God gave us church—this imperfect clump of humanity  
that gathers week after week, striving to be better,  
striving to do good in the world.

God gave and gave, and gives and gives;  
and how do we respond?

We say thank you.

We give what we can.

We let it feel like a joy, not an obligation.

We let it feel like a gift, not a burden.

We show up in this space.

We believe these gifts can somehow make a difference,  
and we refuse to give up on this world.

Thank goodness for a God that forever outgives.

Thank goodness for the opportunity to say thank you for  
it all.

Amen.

- Sarah Speed

## Reflection

Pastor Felix

“Grow - Gifts, Giving, Gratitude; Part II”

## Special Music

Choir

“We Come to Say Thank You”

Thank You, O God, we come to say, “Thank You.”

For all You’ve done, we say, “Thank You, thank You today for all the blessings You send our way.”

Thank You, O God, we come to say, “Thank You.”

For all You’ve done we say, “Thank You, thank You today for all the blessings You send our way.”

For the beauty of the earth, for the glories of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

For the wonder of each hour of each day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, stars of heavenly light.

Thank You, O God, we come to say, “Thank You.”

For all You've done, we say, "Thank You, thank You today for all the blessings You send our way."

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.

For Thy self, best gift divine, to our race so freely giv'n, for the great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n, endless joy in heav'n!

Thank You, O God, we come to say, "Thank You."

For all You've done, we say, "Thank You, thank You today for all the blessings You send our way."

Thank you, O God we come to say, "Thank You."

For all You've done, we say, "Thank You, thank You today for all the blessings You send our way."

For all the blessings You send, we thank You, God.

We thank You, God.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Felix Carrión

## **Invitation to Offering**

Pam Laham

Fisher House Friends of Houston

## **Offertory Music**

Marshall Davies

## **\* Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God for all that Love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

## **Offertory Prayer**

Pam Laham

**ALL: Giver of life and all good gifts, you call us to be stewards of your bounty and caretakers of creation.**

**Empower us to always receive and use the gifts from your hands with an awareness of and a commitment to generosity. Bless now these gifts we offer, and may these gifts transcend the limits of time and space to reach all in need.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

TNCH # 565 “God’s, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

vs. 1 & 4

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store,  
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, death’s  
shattered door;  
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.

Lend your joy to all our giving,  
let it light our pilgrim way;  
From the night of anxious keeping,  
loose us into generous day.  
Then when years on earth are over,  
and we’ve lived our human span,  
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming,  
all our stewardship began.

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**\*Song of Parting**

Congregation

Sing! #197 “La Paz Sea Contigo”

La paz sea contigo.

La paz sea contigo.

May God’s peace be with you, now and forever.

La paz sea contigo.

El amor sea contigo.

El amor sea contigo.

May God’s love be with you, now and forever.

El amor sea contigo.

El Espiritu sea contigo.

El Espiritu sea contigo.

May God’s Spirit be with you, now and forever.

El Espiritu sea contigo.

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies

**Today's Worship Participants**

Worship Leader: Pam Laham

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Amie and Shelby-Mak Friday

**Pastor Felix Carrión**

**Designated Pastor**

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