



**Worship Service for April 26, 2026
4th Sunday after Easter**

Prelude Marshall Davies

Chiming of the Hour Pam Lahm

Welcome Pastor Felix Carrión

Centering Moment Pastor Felix Carrión

Praise and Worship Song Congregation
Sing! #115 "We Are All God's People"

We are all God's chosen people,
children of a perfect Love.

O yes, there's no one less there's no one greater.

We are all God's chosen ones.

We are all God's chosen people,
children of a perfect Love.

O yes, there's no one less there's no one greater.

We are all God's chosen ones.

Announcements

Pam Lahm

Call to Worship

Pam Lahm

LEADER: Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

**ALL: Our deepest fear is that we are powerful
beyond measure.**

LEADER: It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens
us.

**ALL: We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant,
gorgeous, talented?**

LEADER: Actually, who are you not to be?

ALL: You are a child of God.

LEADER: We were born to make manifest the glory of God
that is within us.

**ALL: It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And
as we let our own light shine, we give other people
permission to do the same.**

***Hymn**

Congregation

*TNCH #123 "Mary, Woman of Promise"
vs 1 - 3*

Mary, woman of the promise;
vessel of your people's dreams:
Through your open, willing spirit
waters of God's goodness streamed.

Mary, song of holy wisdom
sung before the world began:
Faithful to the Word within you,
as you bore God's wondrous plan.

Mary, morning star of justice;
mirror of the Radiant Light:
In the shadows of life's journey,
be a beacon for our sight.

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: God, our Mother, Living Water, Source of Life, in whom we live, move, and have our being, we entrust our precious lives to you, in grateful praise. Loving One, who quenches our thirst, refreshes our weariness, be for us always a fountain of life, and for all the world a river of hope springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair. Honor and blessing, glory and praise to You forever.

Amen.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

Genesis 3:16 - 19

To the woman, he said, "I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the

ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

John 15:12 - 17

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Contemporary Witness

Pam Laham

*Excerpt from Adam, Eve, and the Serpent
by Elaine Pagels*

Genesis contains not one but two distinct accounts of creation, of which the first begins with the opening chapter of Genesis and tells how God created the world in six days, crowning God's achievement by creating Adam – that is, humanity – in God's image (Genesis 1:26). But this account ends with Genesis 2:3; and the following verse, Genesis 2:4, begins a different narrative. This second story tells how the Lord made a man out of earth, and, after making all the animals and finding none of them a suitable companion for Adam, God put Adam to sleep, brought woman out of his side, and presented her to Adam as his wife. The woman then persuaded her husband to disobey divine law and earned with him their expulsion from Paradise.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

"I Call You Friends"

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

"I Am Woman"
(congregation can sign along)

I am woman hear me roar,
in numbers too big to ignore,
and I know too much to go back and pretend
'cause I've heard it all before
and I've been down there on the floor,
no one's ever gonna keep me down again.

Oh, yes, I am wise but it's wisdom born of pain,
oh, Yes I paid the price, but look how much I gained.

If I have to

I can do anything.

I am strong, (strong),

I am invincible, (invincible),

I am woman. (Oo)

You can bend but never break me
'cause it only serves to make me

more determined to achieve my final goal.

And I come back even stronger,

not a novice any longer,

'cause you've deepened the conviction in my soul.

Oh, yes, I am wise but it's wisdom born of pain,

oh, Yes I paid the price,

but look how much I gained.

If I have to

I can do anything.

I am strong, (strong),

I am invincible, (invincible)

I am woman. (Oo)

I am woman, watch me grow,

see me standing toe to toe

as I spread my lovin' arms across the land.

But I'm still an embryo

with a long, long way to go

until I make my brother understand

Oh, yes, I am wise but it's wisdom born of pain,
oh, Yes I paid the price,
but look how much I gained
If I have to
I can face anything.
I am strong, (strong),
I am invincible, (invincible)
I am woman.

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

Pastor Felix Carrión

Invitation to Offering

Pam Lahm

Hope Center Houston

Offertory Music

Marshall Davies

***Doxology**

Congregation

ALL: 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

Congregation

ALL: Holy One, we ask for the grace to be vessels of

your love and generosity. May our gifts be

blessed and used as channels in your service

of loving and caring for humanity and healing

our world.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #495 "Called As Partners in Christ's Service"

vs. 1 - 3

Called as partners in Christ's service,

called to ministries of grace,

We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,

words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Song of Parting

Congregation

Sing! #195 "Children of God"

Children of God, let's love one another.
Love is a gift, a blessing of God.
Love one another, sisters and brothers.
Love is a gift of God.

Let love be more than what we say.
Make it the way that we live each day.
Oh oh,

Children of God, let's love one another.
Love is a gift, a blessing of God.
Love one another, sisters and brothers.

Love is a gift of God.

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: *Pam Lahm*

Sound: *Cathy Normand*

Video: *Sarah Bowman*

Projector: *Cii-jayy Jones*

YouTube Host: *Mary Lowell*

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