



Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church

Volume 4, Issue 1 |

March 8, 2009

Our Community Gathers
 + Exchange of Peace
 + Opening Hymn

Rev. Janice Ladd & Mark Eggleston

SLANE

Be Now My Vision



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

We Worship

This Irish text brings the clear presence of God into harmony with the fervent prayer of the believer. Stanza 1 affirms the vision of God that becomes the guiding light in the hearts of God's people. Stanza 2 calls for God's knowledge and truth to give guidance. Stanza 3 affirms that one's relationship with God is treasure enough in this life, replacing any riches or empty praise of this earthly realm. Stanza 4 provides a fitting climax, claiming victory regardless of what may befall the believer. The tune is a traditional Irish air named for a hill, ten miles from Tara, in County Meath.

We Hear the Word

This translation is courtesy of *The Inclusive Hebrew Scriptures*, edited by Priests for Equality through the Inclusive Language Project, initiated in 1988.

Their goal, "to translate the entire Bible into gender-inclusive language by July of 2001," is part of their larger mission, which is to "affirm efforts to use sexually balanced language and images in Church liturgy, publications, education and preaching." It is the understanding of this consortium of Christian ministers, lay leaders, scholars, educators and social activists that "language, in itself, can help educate us toward equality."

We Welcome God

Below is the text of today's Instrumental Invocation, *Total Praise*.

Lord, I will lift,
mine eyes to the hills
Knowing my help
is coming from You
Your peace,
You give me in time
of the storm
You are the source
of my strength
You are the strength
of my life
I lift my hands
in total praise to You
Amen, Amen

Call to Worship

Jubi Headley

Psalm 22:23-31

One: "You who worship our God, give praise! Daughters of Leah, daughters of Rachael, glorify our God! Sons of Jacob, fall down and worship!"

All: For God has not despised – not disdained – the suffering of those in pain! God didn't hide but answered them when they cried for help!"

One: You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly, and I will fulfill my vows in the presence of your worshipers.

All: Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied, those who seek you will give you praise – long life to their hearts!

One: The whole earth, from one end to the other, will remember and come back to you; all the families of the nations will bow down to you. For yours is the kingdom, you Ruler of nations!

All: Those who had feasted and devoured the poor – now they'll bow down; the most affluent in the land will kneel before you. They all go down to the dust and none can keep themselves alive.

One: But my children will be faithful to you, and they will be told about Our God for generations to come. They will come and proclaim your justice to a people yet to be born:

All: "All this Our God has done!"

Instrumental Invocation

Kedric Brown

Total Praise

by Richard Smallwood
Arranged for clarinet by Kedric Brown

Scripture Reading

Loyal Kletzien (9 am)
Jules Gauvin (11 am)

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared and said, "I am God Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless. I will make a covenant between you and me, and I will increase your numbers exceedingly."

Abram fell on his face before God, and God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: You will be the ancestor of many nations. You are no longer to be called Abram, but Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you most fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and rulers will spring from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you, and your descendants after you for generations to come. I will be your God, and the God of your descendants after you.

God continued, "As for Sarai, her name will now be Sarah, 'Noble-woman.' I will bless her, and I will give you a child by her. I will bless her, and she will give rise to nations, rulers of peoples will come from her."

Sung Response

**All: Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?
Washing my eyes to see your majesty.
To be still and know that you're in this place.
Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God speak.**

+ Scripture Reading

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Mark 8:31-38

Then Jesus began to teach that the Chosen One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, be put to death and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God's."

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you'll lose it, yet if you lose your life for my sake, you'll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose your self in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Chosen One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before Our God in glory."

Special Music

Sanctuary Choir

Softly & Tenderly

Arranged by Mark Hayes

Spiritual Encouragement

Rev. Janice Ladd

Finding Our Way: Giving up Agendas to Receive Surprises

Making Ministry Happen

Offertory

Forever Blest

Walk That Lonesome Road

Written by J.D. Sumner
Arranged by Kenny Cole

Communion

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini & Pepe Zuniga

Introduction to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Feast

We Hear the Word

Mark's readers and hearers would have heard this conversation about taking up the cross in the shadow of the persecution of early Christians, persecutions that scattered the band of believers. In addition, they would have heard the statement about gain and loss of material goods in the context of confiscation and destruction of property of the young sect. The evangelist needed a discourse that would encourage and strengthen his followers in the direst situations. It is a call to continue to follow Jesus as a disciple, even when the benefits are not obvious or forthcoming in this life.

~ Valerie Bridgeman
Davis, *New Proclamation Year B*,
2008-2009, 167.

We Receive:

All congregations in MCC practice an open communion. We believe that communion is a visible sign of Christ's presence and God's grace that each one of us, friend or member, may receive. Simply come forward as the ushers direct.

During the Season of Lent, you will be invited to share a moment of silent invitation to the Presence of God followed by a simple blessing that God's Presence remain with you as you journey through this season.

We use grape juice for the cup. If you desire intercessory prayer, our Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry team is available following both services to pray with you.

We Sing

We sing as a body during the distribution of the elements. If you do not wish to sing, please be in an attitude of prayer for those who wish to meditate during this time.

Where two or more are gathered You are present. May you remain in God's presence this season.

In emptiness,
You fill us.
In silence,
You speak.
May you be open and listening this season.

Communion Songs

Word of God Speak

I'm finding myself at a loss for words and the funny thing is it's okay.
The last thing I need is to be heard but to hear what you would say.

Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?

Washing my eyes to see your majesty. To be still and know that You're in this place.

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God speak.

I'm finding myself in the midst of you, beyond the music, beyond the noise.

All that I need is to be with you, and in the quiet hear your voice.

Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?

Washing my eyes to see your majesty. To be still and know that you're in this place.

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness.

Word of God speak. Would you pour down like rain?

Washing my eyes to see your majesty. To be still and know that you're in this place.

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness.

I'm finding myself at a loss for words and the funny thing is it's okay.

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Draw Me Close

Draw me close to you, never let me go,

I lay it all down again to hear you say that I'm your friend.

You are my desire, no one else will do,

'Cause nothing else could take your place; to feel the warmth of your embrace.

Help me find the way, bring me back to you.

You're all I want, you're all I've ever needed.

You're all I want - help me know you are near.

Words & Music by Kelly Carpenter
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Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you,

All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love;

My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;

Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty, praises we bring,

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand;

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Words & Music by Darlene Zschech
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+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

+ **Benediction**

Rev. Janice Ladd

Postlude

Joel Hammett

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Debbie Mansfield

Nursery Coordinator

Sara Navarro

Graphic Artist

Joel Palomares

Youth Ministries Program Coordinator

Ken Thompson

Audio Technician

Anthony White

Gospel Ensemble Pianist

Cassandra White

Gospel Ensemble Director

Jim Winslett

HeavenSound Handbells Director

Pepe Zuniga

Facilities

Volunteer Staff Clergy

Rev. Rick Elliott

Rev. Mona Lopez

RevMona@ResurrectionMCC.org

Worship

Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Children & Youth Worship, Sunday, 11:00 am

Nursery

Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

The Chalice: Spiritual Deepening

Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Resurrection MCC

2025 West 11th St, Houston, Texas 77008

Phone 713-861-9149 / Fax 713-861-2520

www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Welcome!

If you are attending Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church for the first time, we are glad to have you here! We invite you to join us each week as we worship God and learn more about Christian living in an inclusive way. All are welcome.

Make sure to visit the Concierge Desk, located in our Welcome Area, to receive a gift from us. You will find friendly volunteer hosts waiting to greet you.

Worship Services

Resurrection MCC is proud to offer a variety in our worship services. Our two Sunday services, at 9 & 11 am, are identical in form, however they contain different elements from diverse religious traditions each week.

A Special Welcome to our First-Time Families!

Our nursery staff would love to meet you and your infants & children aged 1-3 years! The nursery is located to the right of the Sanctuary entrance and is open during both the 9 am & 11 am services.

Children and youth aged 4-12 years are invited to join our Youth Ministries Program during the 11 am service in the Activities Building (located across the breezeway from our main parking lot). Sign-in begins at 10:45 am. All children must be registered and signed-in to attend. Parents are welcome to join the children for Communion at 12 noon in the Activities Building. Snack & sign-outs begin at 12:15 pm.

About Us...

Resurrection MCC is a Christian church with a primary outreach to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. We are a part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, founded by Rev. Troy D. Perry in Los Angeles, California on October 6, 1968. Metropolitan Community Churches are on a bold mission to transform hearts, lives, and history. We are a movement that faithfully proclaims God's inclusive love for all people, and proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality and sexuality.

The **Mission** of Resurrection MCC is to demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action.

The **Vision** of Resurrection MCC is to **ATTRACT** people into a relationship with God through radical **INCLUSION** into God's family, transform them to Christ-like **MATURITY**, and **MOBILIZE** them for their life purpose.

At Resurrection MCC, every member and friend is a minister of the church. We envision a Christian community that values diversity and is as diverse and all-encompassing as creation. Through salvation, service, study, and tithing, each member and friend will live and grow in faith and be spiritually fed. To that end, we embrace five core beliefs:

We believe in God's unconditional love for everyone.

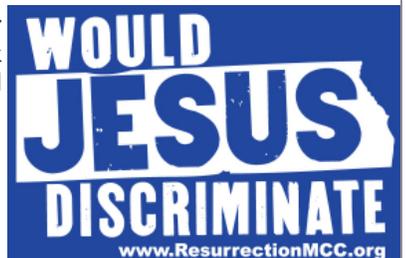
We believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in including everyone and excluding no one.

We believe in joyfully providing access to Christ-centered spiritual nourishment and Biblical truths.

We believe that each of us will discover our spirituality through active participation in the work of God and in the pursuit of health, wholeness, and justice for everyone.

Again, welcome!



Free Cup With a Guarantee



If you've recently visited Resurrection MCC, perhaps you have received our famous Cobalt Blue Resurrection MCC cup. We've learned that many who have received this cup use it daily, as a prayer reminder.

From time to time, someone will say, "Hey, I love those cups! Resurrection wasn't giving those out when I first came." Well, this Sunday is

an opportunity to receive your free cup!

When we found out that people were using the cup as a prayer reminder, we thought, "What if the entire congregation did this together for the Season of Lent?"

Thus, you are invited to participate in *The Daily Cup*, Resurrection MCC's special opportunity to join together as community in the spiritual practices of prayer, worship, giving, service and sharing our stories.

Following services today, visit the Gathering Place. Prayerfully consider the Lenten Covenant (see column to right) for which your cup will serve as a daily reminder. If you accept this invitation, and receive your cup, then each day you will also receive *The Daily Cup* email that will include a scripture, a prayer, and great ideas for living and sharing your faith.

This free cup comes with a "better than money-back" guarantee! If your life is not touched through the daily practice of your Lenten Covenant, we'll buy back your free cup for \$5 after Easter Sunday!

Yes, this is a different approach to Lent. Many have grown up with the concept of "giving up" something for Lent. This year, how about "receiving" something instead...like the Resurrection cup, and the daily blessing that comes through your own special "blend" of spiritual practices?



THE DAILY CUP

A Lenten Covenant for Living from Fullness through Lent

Fill your cup with...

PRAYER

Ideas include yet are not limited to an attentive walk, listening to music, journaling, or a prayerful reading of a favorite scripture.

WORSHIP

Throughout Lent, offer your faithful presence for worship on Sundays and/or at The Chalice on Wednesdays.

GIVING

Listen to how God will invite your generosity. One approach is to take a breath, become calm, and simply pray, "God, how are you inviting me to give?" Then await the answer. Though God may stretch you, God will not ask you to give more than you are able. If each of us follows this invitation, those who are able will be able to give more. Others may offer smaller, yet fruitful seeds. Giving through General Tithes and Offerings, the Imagine Campaign, Online Giving, or Benevolence will impact lives each day.

SERVICE

Ideas include yet are not limited to volunteering for a ministry such as Children and Youth, reaching out to someone who could use encouragement, or sharing your talent in Resurrection's Music Ministry. Sign-up for *The Daily Cup* email for more ideas.

SHARING

Ideas include drinking from your cup at work or among friends to open conversations with others. You don't need to sound preachy or religious. Let your Resurrection cup remind you to just be real and have fun living your faith. Talk about such things as how you find peace, what prayer means to you, and how Resurrection MCC has added value and meaning to your life.

Sign up to participate in this Lenten Journey in the Gathering Place after worship services today!

The Chalice

opening...receiving...offering
Life in Fullness

MARCH 11

Community Soup Supper – 6:00 - 6:30 pm

Spiritual Deepening – 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Life Development Offerings – 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Join us as we Find Our Way through the journey of Lent with *The Chalice*!

Beginning each Wednesday in March and through the first Wednesday in April, we will gather and share our Lenten journeys with a community Soup Supper from 6:00 - 6:30 pm, a time of shared Spiritual Deepening from 6:30 - 7:00 pm, and three open small-group offerings to choose from as we draw near to God in Contemplative Practice, Scripture Study, and in Reflection for Social Action.

Come for one, some or all – let us journey and together Find Our Way!

Life Development Offerings (7:00 - 8:30 pm)

Contemplative Practice (Chapel)

When are you most aware of the Divine Presence dwelling within you?

We offer God the “cup of our lives” through contemplative practice, meditative journaling, and prayer during our Lenten journey together – all welcome!

Scripture Study (Sanctuary)

What would it mean for you to heed Scriptural call to live authentically - to live as though the truth of your Belovedness by God was true?

We are journeying into the “wilderness” of Scripture listening for the truth of God’s love, seeking to live this love as the truth of our lives – join us!

Reflection for Social Action (Music Room)

How would we live our faith if we truly understood that we cannot celebrate the Savior’s body if we do not love and take care of the whole body?

When we live from a place of promise that God’s covenant is with “all flesh” we see that justice is indeed the work of love – God’s love! Everyone invited!

A Sip from The Chalice

**Spiritual Deepening Practice
On the Journey of Lent**

What is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day liturgical season that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at Easter. Sundays are not included in the 40-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Though not biblical, Lent has long been a tradition in the Christian Church, and it is thought that the tradition of the 40 days recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Because of Lent's reflective and penitential nature, worship tends to be more solemn, and purple is the liturgical color of the season. As with many congregations, Resurrection holds mid-week worship services which include devotional activities to share the Lenten disciplines such as service, fasting and prayer in community with one another.

Palm Sunday begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week. Holy Week celebrations at Resurrection include a Foot Washing Service on Wednesday based on John 13 (“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet”), a Liberation Seder on Maundy Thursday based on Christ's "Last Supper" (including the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the mandate to serve one another in love), and a Good Friday service which commemorates Jesus' imprisonment, trial and death by crucifixion. Lent culminates on Easter, when Christians gather and celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

God became flesh in Jesus Christ. Jesus faced temptation, he suffered hunger and thirst, he suffered the agony of crucifixion. Jesus did not face these things so that we would be exempt from them, he faced these things so that we would have dignity in them. Jesus came in the flesh and dwelt among us, and suffered hunger and thirst and heat and cold and betrayal and loneliness, and finally also pain and agony and death upon the cross, and in this “journeying with/in humanity” he gave dignity to all who suffer. When, for a day or season, we are overcome by grief or despair and find that we cannot “snap out of it,” when we usually rely on our own ability to “think positive” but we find we cannot just “look on the bright side of things” at some point, as Christians we find that Jesus meets us there! In hopelessness we find our hope in Christ and there we can endure unhappiness and sadness and loneliness, we can survive poverty and hunger and thirst; we can face mourning and grief and even death, because Jesus faced all those things! We come to know that Jesus brings life in the very place of death; we can face our own crucifixions in life, because we know that Jesus is “alive and well, his spirit is within us” because he died to live again!

Lent is a time to live our friendship with Jesus. Let us be bold to join him, fasting in the wilderness for forty days during Lent; let us live the journey of our faith – friends of Jesus, alive in God – through these weeks ahead.

Get Connected to a First Impressions Ministry

Stop by the Gathering Place after services and find out more about exciting volunteer opportunities!

Concierge Desk

Eliot Perez

Concierge@ResurrectionMCC.org

Do you like to help people feel welcome and included?

We need loving, warm and friendly people to serve at the Concierge Desk, located in the Gathering place, before and after both Sunday Worship Services! This desk helps welcome new friends, provide them with a free gift, and help them get connected.

Inspirations Coffee Cafe & Gift Shop

Dawn Ashbrook

Inspirations@ResurrectionMCC.org

Looking for new friendly faces and volunteers for this ministry! Provide outstanding customer service in an atmosphere of fellowship for people to make connections.

Second Family Care Partners

Kristia Ammerman

SecondFamily@ResurrectionMCC.org

This care team acts as extended family and friends, offering emotional, practical, and spiritual support. Meets for lunch 1st Sun. at 12:30 pm.

Ushers

Dave Mathis

Ushers@ResurrectionMCC.org

We need ushers for 9 & 11 am Sunday Worship Services. Teams serve one service (either 9 or 11 am) each month. Remember, "No one is *JUST* an usher."

Welcome Team

Jason Sowders

Welcome@ResurrectionMCC.org

Do you like helping people feel special and welcome the moment they arrive to the church?

We want to welcome people to the church and help them get to where they need to go. Team members are positioned at every door and sidewalk, greeting people with a smile and kind word, offering directions or answering questions.

If you have questions or would like to join any of these teams, email the team lead (listed above) or contact Jason Wood at Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org or 832-971-0354.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Resurrection MCC is so blessed to have a number of music groups to minister at our worship services. Solo or professional quality voices are not necessary to be a part of these groups. Below is a list of the groups and when they meet. Please take some time to consider being a part of Resurrection MCC's music ministry.

GOSPEL ENSEMBLE

Tuesdays • 7 pm

Directed by Cassandra White, this group sings music in the African-American Gospel tradition, traditional Spirituals and contemporary music of all types. Reading music is not required for this group, but the ability to match pitch and sing a part separate from the melody is.

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Tuesdays • 7 pm

This group sings mostly traditional church choral music with some contemporary music added from time to time. Reading music is not required for this group, but the ability to match pitch and sing a part separate from the melody is.

RESURRECTION SINGERS

Mondays • 7 pm

This is our newest group. Reading music would be very helpful and being comfortable on a separate microphone.

ANGELS IN MOTION

Second & Fourth Saturdays • 1 pm

This group is a dance troupe that ministers through dance and movement. This group has its own choreographers. Experience in dance is not necessary, if one has the willingness to learn.

HEAVENSOUND HANDBELLS

Sundays • 1:30 pm

Currently there are several open spots in the handbell choir. Interested people need to have some music reading skills. Experience in ringing is not required. The director, Jim Winslett, will teach anyone the techniques of ringing.

RESURRECTION ORCHESTRA

Weekly rehearsal day has not been determined. We currently have about 6 people interested in beginning this new group, however, we need a few more to have a balanced instrumentation. Reading music is essential, as is having your own instrument (other than percussion).

If you have interest in any of these groups, please email Worship@ResurrectionMCC.org

Friday Night OUT March 27, 7 pm



Join us for dinner at
Katz Deli & Bar!

616 Westheimer
713.521.3838
www.ilovekatzs.com

For more information, or to join the email list for the group,
email NightOUT@ResurrectionMCC.org

New Members' Class

Tuesday, April 7

6 - 8:30 pm

Gathering Place / Dinner Served

Join Rev. Janice, Rev. Kristen, and Jason to discuss the mission, vision, and values of Resurrection MCC, to discover our connection to the world through our affiliation with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and to join this family of faith in purpose, service, and fellowship!

Care for our environment by recycling newspapers, magazines, catalogs and junk mail in the containers in our parking lot.



In 2008, we recycled
30 tons of paper,
a 12% increase
over 2007.

We now have two collection bins as this program grows. We receive cash based on the weight of the paper collected.



To register, contact Jason Wood,
Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org
or 713-861-9149 x105.

Download the Spiritual Gifts Assessment
from www.ResurrectionMCC.org,

FINDING OUR WAY

Giving Up Control to Receive Direction

Giving Up Illusions to Receive Greater Clarity

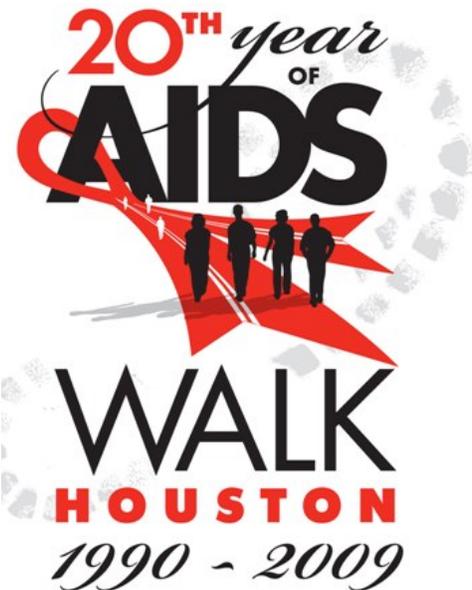
Giving Up Agendas to Receive Surprises

Giving Up Compulsion to Receive Unlimited Love

Worship Services
Sundays, 9 & 11 am. Wednesdays, 6:30 pm.

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
2025 W 11th Street, Houston, Texas 77008
www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Handicap Accessible
Sundays • Nursery Available 9 & 11 am
Signed for the Deaf 11 am
Children & Youth Program 11 am



Join Team Resurrection MCC!

NEXT Sunday, March 15, 9 am

Go online today. Sign up to walk and raise funds for our HIV / AIDS Benevolence Fund. Get your t-shirt in Inspirations Coffee Cafe & Gift Shop today!

For questions, or to volunteer, email
AIDSWalk@ResurrectionMCC.org

Second Family Care Team Ministry

Is looking for caring, loving, helping people just like you!

The CareTeam is ministry developed in partnership with Interfaith Care Partners and other congregations. Team members serve on this in-home support program as extended family and friends with Care Partners from congregation and community.

Care Partners are those members of the congregation or community with special needs. Needs include respite care for caregiver, emotional support during personal family crisis, assistance after hospitalization, or any other time of need in the Care Partner's life.

Our vision is to communicate God's unconditional love to all people through simple acts of kindness to members or our church family and community who have a need and seek our help. We believe the Christian community should reach out with loving hearts and helping hands to serve our community and church family members. We believe that by providing emotional, practical and spiritual support with an attitude of love and grace, we can create a positive change in the lives of individuals and their families. Through this form of Christian action, we envision a renewed hope in Christ and in the Christian community.

If you would like be a ministry team member, we meet on the first Sunday of each month, following the 11 am service in the Activities Building for lunch, training, and fellowship care and planning.

If you would like to be a Care Partner and have a special need please fill out a request sheet that is available at all the entrance to the sanctuary and place it in the box labeled, CareTeam. For more information on giving or receiving care, contact Jason Wood, Director of Connections by email at Jason@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x105.

Semi-Annual Congregational **FORUM**

Today, 12:30 pm, Sanctuary

Semi-Annual Congregational **MEETING**

March 22, 12:30 pm, Sanctuary

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the all-holy one, who gives us life and all things. As we go about our lives, the press of our duties and activities often leads us to forget your presence and your love. We fall into sin and fail to live out the responsibilities that you have entrusted to those who were baptized into your Son.

In this holy season, help us to turn our minds and hearts back to you. Lead us into sincere repentance and renew our lives with your grace. Help us to remember that we are sinners, but even more, help us to remember your loving mercy.

As we live through this Ash Wednesday, may the crosses of ashes that mark our foreheads be a reminder to us and to those we meet that we belong to your Son. May our worship and prayer and penitence this day be sustained throughout these 40 days of Lent.. Bring us refreshed and renewed to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

Food Pantry Ministry

Open Mondays & Wednesdays
by appointment

Team Lead: Marty Williams

*Food Pantry fund is very low.
Please make a donation today.
Write "Food Pantry" on your check
or giving envelope.*

Most in Need of Canned Meat.



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with us.

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Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org

Why Become a Legacy Giver?



- To stimulate our worship experience through audio/visual enhancements.
- To forge new friendships through a revitalized, enlarged Welcome Center.
- To design a space that will transform lives by converting the Activities Building into the Life Development Center.
- To create committed leaders for tomorrow through expanded children and youth programs.
- To inspire adults to vitality and wholeness through increased education, wellness, community involvement, and spiritual growth opportunities.
- To reach millions with the *Would Jesus Discriminate?* billboard and marketing campaign.
- To impact the lives of those oppressed through further partnerships with organizations focused on social justice.
- To create financial health and long-term stability through increased payments on our debt.

Commitment cards may be picked up at The Concierge Desk and Sanctuary entrances. They may be returned in the offering basket or by mail.

Stewardship Thought for the Week

*To live is not to live for one's self;
let us help one another.*

~ Meander of Athens

Board Members on Duty

Eve Messina & Bryan Long

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

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Pamela Efferson, Realtor

Flowers in the Sanctuary

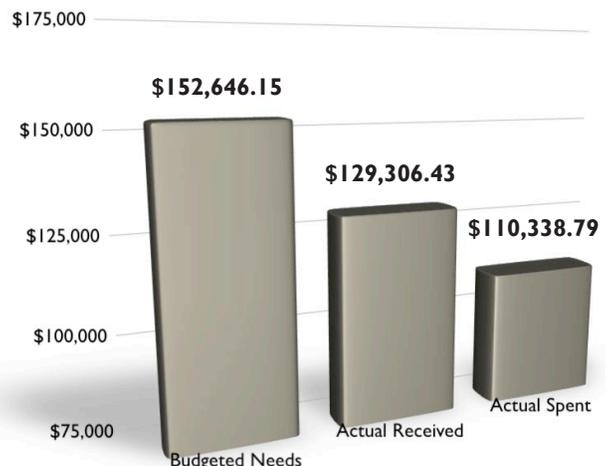
Consider donating flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day.

Sign up on the Flower Chart in the Welcome Area.

General Fund Financial Report

Week Ending March 1, 2009

Tithes & Offerings			Week	Year
3/01/09	9:00 am	137	\$8,836.00	\$36,567.95
3/01/09	11:00 am	351	\$10,002.50	\$60,551.81
2/25/09	6:30 pm	0	\$0.00	\$903.00
	Special Services	146	\$1,547.27	\$1,901.27
	Online Giving		\$1,358.61	\$8,360.33
	Other Contributions		\$1,986.77	\$16,618.03
	Total	634	\$23,731.15	\$124,902.39
Other General Fund Income				
	Fundraising		\$11.85	\$1,163.48
	Miscellaneous		\$600.00	\$3,240.56
	Total Received		\$24,343.00	\$129,306.43
	Budgeted Need		\$17,653.85	\$152,646.15
	Total Surplus / (Deficit)		\$6,689.15	(\$23,339.72)
Total Imagine Capital Campaign			\$2,450.00	\$20,023.34



This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY MARCH 8

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd**
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*
10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Janice Ladd
12:30 pm Semi-Annual Congregational Forum *Sanctuary*
12:30 pm Unbinding Prayer *Chapel*

MONDAY MARCH 9

- 6:30 pm Resurrection Singers Rehearsal *Music Room*

TUESDAY MARCH 10

- 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous *Gathering Place*
7:00 pm Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal *Music Room*
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Chapel*

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

- 6:00 pm The Chalice: Community Meal *Activities Building*
6:30 pm The Chalice: Spiritual Deepening *Sanctuary*
7:00 pm The Chalice: Contemplative Practice (Open) *Chapel*
7:00 pm The Chalice: Scripture Study (Open) *Sanctuary*
7:00 pm The Chalice: Social Action (Open) *Music Room*
7:00 pm Pride Band Rehearsal *Activities Building*

THURSDAY MARCH 12

No Events Scheduled.

FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED MARCH 13

No Events Scheduled.

SATURDAY MARCH 14

- 8:00 am Future Clergy Meeting *Gathering Place*
1:00 pm Angels in Motion *Sanctuary*

SUNDAY MARCH 15

- 9:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson**
10:15 am Fisher's Net Prayer Ministry *Chapel*
10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
11:00 am Sunday Worship / Rev. Dwayne Johnson
12:30 pm Equality Ministry Team Meeting *Act. Building #108*
1:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal *Music Room*