

**Holy Spirit, come, confirm us in the truth that Christ makes known;
we have faith and understanding through your helping gifts alone.**

**Holy Spirit, come console us, come as advocate to plead;
loving Spirit from the Father, grant in Christ the help we need.**

**Holy Spirit, come, renew us, come yourself to make us live;
holy through your loving presence, holy through the gifts you give.**

**Holy Spirit, come, possess us, you the love of Three in One,
Holy Spirit of the Father, Holy Spirit of the Son.**

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Lance Richards and Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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 *these persons*
in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example
of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and
forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their
service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk
in the way that leads to life eternal.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the God the Father Almighty; from thence he
shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISMAL REMBRANCE + CONFIRMATION WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

RECEPTION OF NEW PROFESSING MEMBERS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith, 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.**

BLESSING

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

O For a Thousand

UMH 57

Tongues to Sing (vs. 1-5, 7)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**

**In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.**

*SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-8, 12-24, 32-33, 36-39 Rev. Lance Richards
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR Rev. Lance Richards

*HYMN OF BLESSING Love Divine, All Loves Excelling UMH 384

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE He Lives (Refrain) UMH 310

Refrain: He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
**He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.**

POSTLUDE Grand Choeur *by Theodore Dubois*

*Please stand as you are able.

2024 CONFIRMANDS

Kelechi Adalyn Adagbo
Noah Chikala

Elijah Chaney
Gladinace Mbobile

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST Paul Butt
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN Courtney Hutchins
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC Dr. Terry Morris
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR/
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
SENIOR PASTOR Rev. Lance Richards
PIANIST Jeremy Wood