

SERVICE OF THE WORD
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service
October 13, 2024 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

PRELUDE Come Thou Fount *arr. by Mary McDonald*

*CALL TO WORSHIP Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom (vs. 1 & 3) UMH 508

**Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit;
faith can feel the thrill of harvest when the buds begin to sprout.**

**Long before the rains were coming, Noah went and built an ark.
Abraham, the lonely migrant, saw the light beyond the dark.**

*WELCOME Rev. Amanda Davis

*HYMN OF WELCOME Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know UMH 163

**Ask ye what great thing I know, that delights and stirs me so?
What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**Who defeats my fiercest foes? Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my fainting heart, healing all its hidden smart?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be?
Who will place me on his right, with the countless hosts of light?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so:
faith in him who died to save, him who triumphed o'er the grave:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT Rev. Lance Richards, Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh;
Rev. Amanda Davis

Name of Candidate: Vera Virginia Adalyn Berlanga
Names of Parents: Lauren and Warren Berlanga

BAPTISMAL CHORUS Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (V. 1) UMH 400

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.**

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE Rev. Lance Richards

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH Rev. Lance Richards

...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 Vera in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Vera with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Eternal Father...may share in his final victory. **Amen.**

BAPTISM Rev. Lance Richards

Vera Virginia Adalyn, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS Rev. Lance Richards

Vera Virginia Adalyn, The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born again through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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| BAPTISM PRAYER | | Rev. Amanda Davis |
| ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. | | |
| COMMENDATION AND WELCOME | | Rev. Lance Richards |
| ...confirm her hope, and perfect her 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 | | Rev. Lance Richards |
| The God of all grace...that you may live in grace and peace. Amen. | | |
| BAPTISMAL CHORUS - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 3) | | UMH 400 |
| O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! | | |
| Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. | | |
| Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; | | |
| here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above. | | |
| LIFE OF THE CHURCH | Hurricane Helene & Milton Relief | Rev. Lance Richards |
| OFFERING PRAYER | | Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh |
| OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD | | Congregation |
| MINISTRY IN MUSIC | Offertory Sanctuary Choir | John Ness Beck |
| With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give him my first-born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man; he has shown you what is good. and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? | | |
| *OFFERING RESPONSE | Bless Thou the Gifts | UMH 587 |
| Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought; | | |
| bless thou the work our hearts have planned. | | |
| Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; | | |
| the rest, O God, is in thy hand. | | |
| *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed, MH 881 | Rev. Amanda Davis |
| I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and 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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. 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. | | |
| *GLORIA PATRI | Glory Be to the Father | UMH 70 |
| Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; | | |
| as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, | | |
| world without end. Amen. Amen. | | |
| TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE) | | Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh |
| *HYMN OF PREPARATION | Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me | UMH 336 |
| Of all the Spirit's gifts to me, I pray that I may never cease | | |
| to take and treasure most these three: love, joy, and peace. | | |
| The Spirit shows me love's the root of every gift sent from above, | | |

of every flower, of every fruit, that God is love.

The Spirit shows if I possess a love no evil can destroy;
however great is my distress, then this is joy.

Though what's ahead is mystery, and life itself is ours on lease,
each day the Spirit says to me, "Go forth in peace!"

We go in peace, but make aware that, in a needy world like this,
our clearest purpose is to share love, joy, and peace.

*SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 17:7-8 Rev. Lance Richards
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Rooted Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN) Rev. Amanda Davis

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 Jesus, Thine All Victorious Love UMH 422

**Jesus, thine all victorious love shed in my heart abroad;
then shall my feet no longer rove, rooted and fixed in God.**

**O that in me the sacred fire might now begin to glow;
burn up the dross of base desire and make the mountains flow!**

**O that it now from heaven might fall and all my sins consume!
Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call, Spirit of burning, come!**

**Refining fire, go through my heart, illuminate my soul;
scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole.**

*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh; Rev. Amanda Davis

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE God, Who Stretched (v. 1) UMH 150
the Spangled Heavens

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
we your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.
Great creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

*POSTLUDE Postlude on Llanfair *by Albert Travis*

*Please stand as you are able.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory
of our dear sister, Helen Schauer-Hallas by Darleen, Leroy and Charles Schauer.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

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| PIANIST | Eric Bellah |
| ORGANIST | Paul Butt |
| EXECUTIVE PASTOR | Rev. Amanda Davis |
| CHOIR DIRECTOR | Greg Moore |
| FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR/ DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY | Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh |
| SENIOR PASTOR | Rev. Lance Richards |