



...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

Advent & Christmas Preview  
& Stewardship Update

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh  
Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING PRAYER

Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

I Am Not My Own  
Sanctuary Choir

*by Craig Courtney*

I am not my own, I am not my own, not in body, not in soul, In life, nor even death.  
I am not my own, I am not my own.

I belong unto my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. I am not my own.

I am not my own, I am not my own, not in body, not in soul, in life, nor even death.  
I am not my own, I am not my own.

His own blood has ransomed me, from evil set me free. I am not my own.

For my salvation all things work together, in eternal life He gives me hope.

By the power of His Holy Spirit, I will live for Him.

I am not my own, I am not my own.

I belong unto my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

I belong to Him, In life, in death, my only comfort, I belong to Him.

I will live for Him, forever and ever, forever more.

\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed, MH 881

Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

**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)

Courtney Hutchins

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

Let Us Plead for Faith Alone

UMH 385

**Let us plead for faith alone, faith which by our works is shown;  
God it is who justifies, only faith the grace applies.**

**Active faith that lives within, conquers hell and death and sin,**

**hallows whom it first made whole, forms the Savior in the soul.**

**Let us for this faith contend, sure salvation is the end;  
heaven already is begun, everlasting life is won.**

**Only let us persevere till we see our Lord appear,  
never from the Rock remove, saved by faith which works by love.**

\*SCRIPTURE James 2:14-26 Rev. Lance Richards  
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Faith & Works 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 God of Grace and God of Glory UMH 577  
**God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.**

\*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh & Rev. Lance Richards

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Help Us Accept Each Other (v. 3) UMH 560  
**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved,  
In living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

\*POSTLUDE To God Be the Glory *arr. by Joel Raney*

\*Please stand as you are able.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Gary Hickman  
on the occasion of his birthday by the Flores Girls.

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#### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST	Paul Butt	
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES		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