SERVICE OF THE WORD TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST |

First United Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service November 17, 2024 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

PRELUDE Amazing Grace arr. by George Shearing

*CALL TO WORSHIP Where Charity and Love Prevail (vs. 1-2, 5)

UMH 549

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;

brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;

let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son; as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

*WELCOME Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*HYMN OF WELCOME The Church of Christ, in Every Age

UMH 589

(to the tune 427: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life [GERMANY])

The church of Christ, in every age beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord, to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT Rev. Lance Rich

Rev. Lance Richards; Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

Name of Candidate: Mia Fonseca

Names of Parents: Rachel Menchaca and Raymond Fonseca

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 Mia in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Mia with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may

Christ. We will surround Mia 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

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

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Mia, 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.**

BAPTISM PRAYER Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

...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

Rev. Lance Richards

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 Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh & Stewardship Update Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Lance Richards

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC I Am Not My Own by Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir

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,

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.

world without end. Amen. Amen.

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 Rev. Lance Richards James 2:14-26

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) 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

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.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR/ DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY SENIOR PASTOR PIANIST

Paul Butt

Courtney Hutchins Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

UMH 560

Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood

^{*}Please stand as you are able.