

**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

UMH 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

First Choice/Children's Ministry Staff

SCRIPTURE

Romans 10:5-17

Rev. Lance Richards

The word of God for us the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Bring Good News: Witness

Rev. Lance Richards

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lance Richards

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

Rev. Lance Richards

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.

CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Leader: And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

Congregation: **We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.**

Leader: Will you let the Holy Spirit use you as prophets to the powers of evil, injustice and oppression?

Congregation: **We accept the freedom and the power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.**

Leader: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ in union with the church, Christ's body on earth?

Congregation: **We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.**

Leader: According to the grace given to you, will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

Congregation: **We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Leader: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Congregation: **We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

MUSIC DURING REAFFIRMATION Shall We Gather at the River UMH 723

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

*Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

**On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (repeat refrain)**

**Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (repeat refrain)**

**Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (repeat refrain)**

MUSIC DURING REAFFIRMATION Lord, I Want to be a Christian UMH 402

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

Congregation: **We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members together 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.**

STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Lance Richards

BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

BENEDICTION RESPONSE We are the Church (refrain & verse 1) UMH 558

*Refrain: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!*

**The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place, the church is a people. (repeat refrain)**

POSTLUDE Épilogue sur un thème de Frescobaldi Jean Langlais

SENIOR PASTOR
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards
Rev. Amanda Davis

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
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