MESSAGE Joy Drives Away our Fear 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.

INVITATION TO THE ALTAR

Rev. Lance Richards

\*CAROL OF HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE

I Want to Walk UMH 206

as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine of my path, and show me the way to the Father. (sing refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. (sing refrain)

\*STEP FORWARD IN FAITH Rev. Lance Richards

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Lance Richards

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Lift Up Your Heads,

UMH 213

Ye Mighty Gates (verse 2)

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use from heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

POSTLUDE Now Thank We all Our God

by J. S. Bach

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Glynda Rochen by her family.

### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
SENIOR PASTOR
PIANIST

Paul Butt Rev. Amanda Davis Courtney Hutchins Dr. Terry Morris Rev. Lance Richards Jeremy Wood

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

# First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service November 26, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE Sleepers, Awake!

by J. S. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**UMH 196** 

UMH 211

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

\*WELCOME Rev. Amanda Davis

\*CAROL OF WELCOME O Come O Come, Emmanuel (v 1- 3; 6-7)
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. (sing refrain)

O come, O come, great Lord of might who to thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (sing refrain)

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. (sing refrain)

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. (sing refrain)

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 60:2-3

The Yezak Family

SUNG RESPONSE O Come, O Come Emmanuel (refrain) UMH211 (Refrain) "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

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.

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Rev. Lance Richards

Names of Candidates: Edward Wallace Nobles Villalon;

William Porter Nobles Villalon

Name of Parents: Monica Kristina Nobles and Antonio Eduardo Flores Villalon

...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 Edward and William in your care? With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Edward and William 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.

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

...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.

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 Magi Tree Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING PRAYER Rev. Amanda Davis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD Congregation

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Still, Still, Still by Mark Shepperd

Sanctuary Choir; Ivy Kubin, violin and Kaitlyn Rogers, flute Still, still, still, how the Christ-child sleeps so still.

The virgin softly, sweetly singing, while above the angels winging.

Still, still. How the Christ-child sleeps so still.

Hear, hear, heav'nly voices sound so clear.

Now gently soothe the royal babe while silent starlight manger bathes.

Hear, hear,, hear, heav'nly voices sound so clear.

Sleep, sleep, child of hope, now sleep.

The Son of God comes down from above filling our hearts with endless love.

Sleep, sleep, child of hope, now sleep. Child of hope, now sleep.

\*OFFERING RESPONSE O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 3) UMH 230 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessing of his heaven.

No ear can hear his coming, so in this world of sin; where meek souls will receive him, still, the dear Christ enters in.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed UMH 881
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe

\*GLORIA Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain) UMH 238
Gloria, in excelsis deo. Gloria, in excelsis deo.

in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for

the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the

TIME FOR CHILDREN (LIVE)

life of the world to come. Amen.

**Courtney Hutchins** 

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION Lo How a Rose 'ere Blooming UMH 216
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

\*SCRIPTURE Zephaniah 3:14-20 Rev. Lance Richards
The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!