

***A Service of Worship
for Sunday
22 August 2010***

*I speak myself, and my name
is only smoke
and less than smoke.*

*I say who I am, and my name
slips from my mouth
to become a word in a foreign tongue.*

*I explain myself, and my name,
turned witness against me,
puts questions I cannot answer.*

*I say myself, and my name
drifts out, a bright colored bubble
to splinter against the wind.*

*But if You say me, my Lord, my name
I meet in Your darkness and hear it
singing content in Your silence.*

“Meditation after an Interview” by Vassar Miller

please enter for worship in silence

*+ Prelude:

Intermezzo in A Major, Opus 118, No. 2

Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship

* Ushers will seat latecomers
+ Please stand if you are able

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore

Her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

+ Opening Sentences

To worship is to stand in awe
under a heaven of stars,
before a flower, a leaf in sunlight,
or a grain of sand.

**To worship is to be silent, receptive,
before a tree astir with the wind,
or the passing shadow of a cloud.**

To worship is to work with dedication and with skill;
it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music.

**To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the earth;
it is to listen through a storm to the still small voice within.**

Worship is a loneliness seeking communion;
it is a thirsty land crying out for rain.

**Worship is a kindred fire within our hearts;
it moves through deeds of kindness and through acts of love.**

Worship is the mystery within us
reaching out to the mystery beyond.

**It is an inarticulate silence yearning to speak;
it is the window of the moment open to the sky of the eternal.**

Scripture Lesson:

Psalm 100

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children

*+ Response:

Personent Hodie

*Down to earth, as a dove, Came to light holy love:
Jesus Christ from above bringing great salvation
Meant for every nation.
Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring.
Christ is here, ever near! Gloria in excelsis.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**God's abstention is only from human dialects. The holy voice
utters its woe and glory in myriad musics, in signs and portents.
Our own words are for us to speak, a way to ask and to answer.**

Words of Assurance

Music

J.S. Bach

“Et Misericordia” from *Magnificat*

God's mercy is on them that revere God from generation to generation.

Proclamation: Memories of Grace

“When in Our Music God is Glorified”

1. When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, And a - do -
 2. How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found A new di -
 3. So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, In faith and
 4. Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as
 men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship
 love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness
 joyce who have a voice to raise! And may God

though the whole cre - a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
 moved us to a more pro - found: Al - le - lu - ia!
 to the truth in ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
 give us faith to sing al - ways:

Final ending
 Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory:

“Pavane”

Paul Drayton

+ Prayer of Dedication

**For all that has been — Thanks!
To all that will be — Yes!**

+ Doxology

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Sing praise all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Maker, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

+ Affirmation of Faith

**And you whose spirit is sad and unsure,
try to remember the very best parts of your life,
the loveliest feelings in your body self,
occasions of bold delight and quiet confidence,
moments of unambivalent commitment and unrestrained joy.
Try to remember when you have believed passionately in
something or someone human or divine.
Try to imagine that someone now believes in you
because she trusts your loveliest feelings
. . . commitments. . . confidence. . . joy.
She goes with us as we are called forth to go,
with one another,
evoked by historical memory and voices
audible only to ears that can hear the power of God in history.
Her name is love.**

+ *Please stand if you are able*

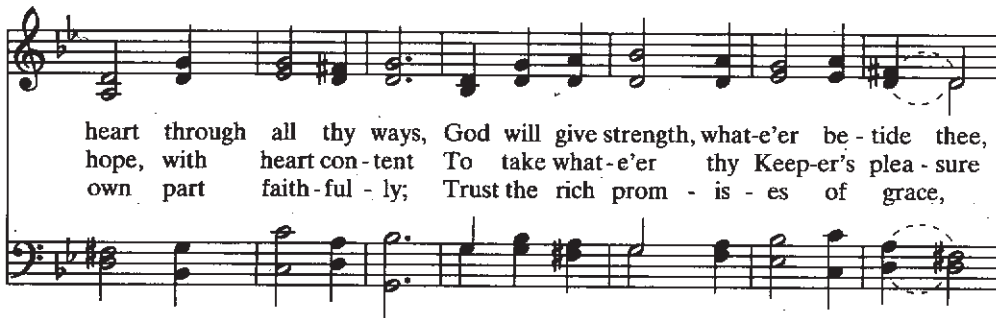
+ Closing Hymn 282:

Wer nur den lieben Gott

“If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee”



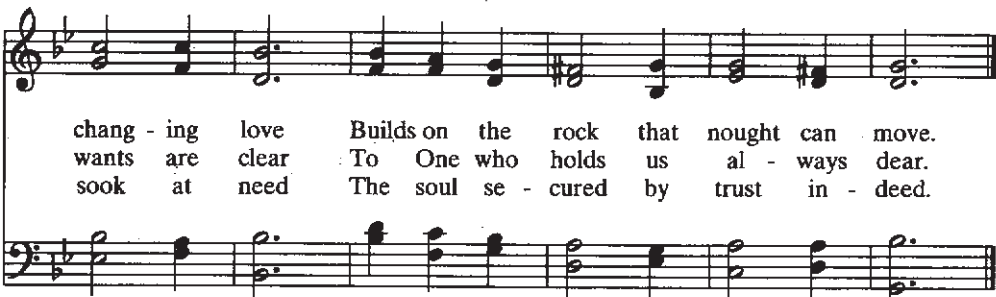
1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee, With hope-ful
2. On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure In cheer-ful
3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, But do thine



heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,
hope, with heart con - tent To take what-e'er thy Keep-er's plea - sure
own part faith - ful - ly; Trust the rich prom - is - es of grace,



To bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
And all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our in - most
So shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er yet for -



chang - ing love Builds on the rock that nought can move.
wants are clear To One who holds us al - ways dear.
sook at need The soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

+ Please stand if you are able

Unison Benediction

**For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

Postlude

“Sortie” (“Suite Liturgique”)

Denis Bédard

Worship

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte is **Ruben Milano**.

The worship leaders are **Jeremy Rutledge** and **Alexa Daggett**.

The Call to Worship is from *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC* by Frederick Buechner.

The Opening Sentences are by Jacob Trapp reprinted in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Unison Confession is from “Immersion” in *This Great Unknowing: Last Poems* by Denise Levertov.

The duet is sung by **Eric Avera** and **Joyce Courtois**.

The Proclamation is given by Covenant's Minister of Music, **Fran Avera**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Dag Hammarskjöld.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Touching Our Strength* by Carter Heyward.

The Unison Benediction is from Isaiah 55:12.

The liturgical movement is offered by **Anne Amis**, **Cathy Montgomery**, and **Susan Wegner**.

Calendar

Sunday 8/22	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday 8/24	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 8/25	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Saturday 8/28	9:00 a.m.	Choir Workshop
	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service of Caroline Maggio
Sunday 8/29	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Education Hour

Children & Youth Education:

Our children and youth will meet together for Summer Sunday School. We will gather in the library of the church building each week to learn about the people of the Hebrew Bible and to have a lot of fun.

Adult Education:

In the Sanctuary - This Sunday, Jeremy will continue our discussion of Bill Moyers' interview with renowned Buddhist teacher Pema Chödrön. Chödrön writes, "It isn't the things that happen to us in our lives that cause us to suffer, it's how we relate to the things that happen to us that causes us to suffer." Join us as we consider the wisdom of Pema Chödrön, including her thoughts on how to develop compassion and understanding in spite of, or perhaps even taught by, the suffering within and around us.

Bible Discussion - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Tim Wegner. Text: Luke 13:10-7.

Parents Forum - Parents Forum meets every third Sunday of the month during education hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. The next meeting will take place on September 19.

Inquirers Class In Session

A session of classes for visitors and those considering membership in Covenant takes place during the education hour. The seven weekly sessions will cover such topics as liberal Christianity, Baptist principles and history, and the history of Covenant as well as information about the structure and functioning of the church through the Church Council, the Diaconate, and the committees. Presenters include the ministers, committee chairs, and other members of the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about the church and its people, join Joe Milano in Meeks House at 9 a.m. on Sundays through August 29.

Helpful Information

Childcare Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 10:15 a.m.

Communication Cards If you're a visitor with us, please fill out a blue communication card and drop it in the offering basket.

Covenant Membership Membership in Covenant Church is open to all persons who affirm the loving presence of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the revealed Spirit throughout the ages. Those interested in learning more about Covenant are encouraged to express that interest to one of the ministers or the worship leader. Any person desiring membership first becomes an inquirer and is asked to attend an orientation class designed to acquaint inquirers with the church and its beliefs. After a period of eight weeks, the inquirer may indicate a desire to become a member.

Celebrations and Concerns If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please post it on the announcements board in the narthex or e-mail it to prayer@covenanthouston.org.

Covenant Newsletter To subscribe to the monthly newsletter, please send an e-mail request to office@covenanthouston.org. The newsletter is also available online at www.covenanthouston.org.

Covenant Recycles If you do not wish to keep your order of worship this Sunday, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex on your way out.

Covenant Church affirms the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe. We welcome persons of all racial and ethnic heritages, all sexual orientations, and all faith perspectives to our Christian community. We stand for each individual's right to worship God and to respond to God's call to ministry in her or his own understanding of God's all-encompassing love.

We value a holistic approach to faith and seek to worship in ways that are intellectually credible, emotionally stimulating, spiritually engaging and contemporarily relevant.

We value music and art and ritual to express what we cannot ever fully say.

We value participation so that we might hear many approaches to our shared faith.