

Education Hour

Children's Education:

Pre-K - 2nd Grade- We are studying stories from the Bible through creative activities and crafts using the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. This class will meet in the Library (to the left of the Workroom.)

3rd Grade - 5th Grade - We are using The Seasons of the Spirit curriculum, music, and art projects to examine the stories of the Bible through the lectionary. This class will meet in the Classroom (to the right of the Workroom.)

Youth Education: We continue with the problem of suffering by exploring "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish and the book of Job. The class will meet on the third floor of the Meeks House (across Caroline Street from the church).

Adult Education:

Bible Discussion: In the Meeks house, the focus for the Bible Study will be 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13, led by Rick Casswell.

In The Sanctuary: Bill Howze will lead an exploration of the group's cognitive and emotional responses to images of works of art that can be related to spiritual, theological, or religious concerns. Thanks to everyone who contributed to last week's lively discussion!

Parents Forum - Parents Forum meets every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House.

Calendar

Sunday 1/31	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday 2/2	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 2/3	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Friday 2/5	7:00 p.m.	Youth Movie at Laura Mayo's
Sunday 2/7	8:15 a.m.	First Sunday Food Offering
	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Helpful Information

Childcare Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 8:45 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 There is a weekly Newsletter available online at www.covenanthouston.org. To have this Newsletter e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail request to office@covenanthouston.org.

Covenant Recycles If you do not wish to keep your bulletin 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.

Covenant Church
an ecumenical liberal baptist
congregation

Members of Covenant
Ministers

Jeremy Rutledge
Minister

Laura Mayo
Associate Minister

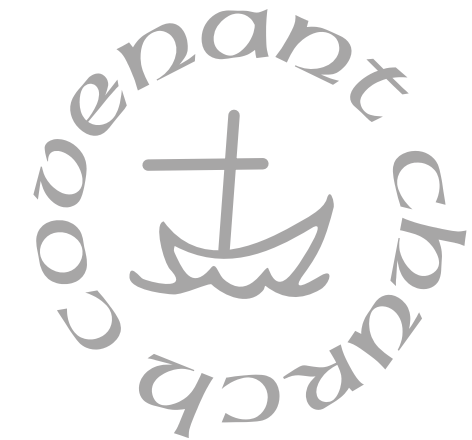
Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

Pat Long
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo
Office Administrator

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830



*A Service of Worship
for Sunday
31 January 2010*

*One of the most pertinent of all delusions is the conviction
that the source of our dissatisfaction lies outside ourselves.*

B. Alan Wallace

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude
“Te Splendor et Virtus”
Choral Introit (11:00)
“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Marcel Dupré
Union Seminary

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**From the cowardice that dares not face new truth
From the laziness that is contented with half truth
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
Good Lord, deliver us.**

*+ Processional Hymn 311:
“We Meet You, O Christ”

Normandy

Words of Assurance

Music (8:15)

“Piece Pour Flute Seule”

Jacques Ibert

(11:00)

“My Song In The Night”

arr. Paul Christiansen

Meditation: Killing the Bodhisattvas

Offering

Offertory:

“Prelude in C Major

J. S. Bach

+ Prayer of Dedication

**Let our lives speak
as much as our words
about what we truly value.**

+ 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.*

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion Hymn #504

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Union Seminary

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

If you would like to take communion, but are unable to come forward,
please notify the usher and the elements will be brought to you.

Our communion elements include both wine and water.
Gluten-free bread is also available.

Affirmation of Faith

**Beyond the beliefs of any religion,
there is the truth of the human spirit.**

**Beyond the power of nations,
there is the power of the human heart.**

**Beyond the ordinary mind,
the power of wisdom, love, and
healing energy is at work in the universe.**

**When we can find peace within our hearts,
we contact these universal powers.**

This is our only hope.

+ Recessional Hymn 339

“Be Thou My Vision”

Slane

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00)

“Lord, When Our Life of Faith is Done”

Dunlap’s Creek

Postlude

“Fughetta in C Minor”

Josef Rheinberger

Worship

The Acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte for the second service is **Byron Kress**.

The Worship Leaders are **Lynn McLean** and **Miller Kress**.

The Call to Worship is “The Guest House” by Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi.

The Opening Sentences are from Clinton Lee Scott in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Unison Confession is a Kenyan prayer.

Pam Vincent plays the flute at the 8:15 service.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Awakening the Soul: A Book of Daily Devotions*, edited by John Morgan.

The Affirmation of Faith from Tibetan lama Tarchang Tulku.

Scripture Lesson
Luke 4:24-30
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children

*+ Response:
*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and teach us to love Thee and help us to share.*

* *Ushers will seat latecomers*

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ *Please stand if you are able*