

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 right 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 left of the Workroom.)

Youth Education: We are beginning a study of Jesus using Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals. This book uses Biblical scholarship and information from the Jesus Seminar to create portraits of Jesus. We will become more familiar with Jesus's context in history as well as his Jewish identity.

Adult Education:

Bible Discussion: Margie Latham will lead Bible Study.

In The Sanctuary: Please join Jeremy in the sanctuary for a sermon dialogue.

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

Calendar

Sunday 2/7	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
Monday 2/8	7:00 p.m.	Houston Youth Leadership Awards
Tuesday 2/9	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 2/10	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Thursday 2/11	6:30 p.m.	Annual Interfaith Youth Dinner Dialogue
Friday 2/12	6:30 p.m.	Hospitality Apartments Dinner
Saturday 2/13	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Wednesday 2/17	7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service at Rothko Chapel

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

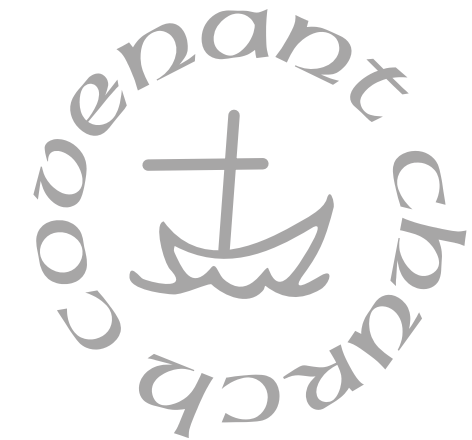
Fran Avera
Minister of Music

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 7 February 2010

Belief in Jesus is most endangered by those who are anxious to preserve it. They are afraid of changes to established customs of thinking and living; they see reforms as destructive and would much prefer to hide Jesus in a golden shrine—untouchable and therefore also touching no one, unchangeable and therefore never changing anyone, eternally valid and therefore as far removed as possible from our reality.

Dorothee Soelle and Luise Schottroff

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude Denis Bédard
Dialogue on the “Te Deum”

Choral Introit (8:15) Holy Manna
“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Call to Worship

*+ Processional Hymn 418: Ich halte treulich still
“God, Bless Your Church with Strength”

* Opening Sentences
**Jesus said, “Follow me.”
We don’t always know what that means.
We are on a journey of discovery.
We are here because we want to be God’s people;
we are here because we are broken
and want to be whole again;
we are here to celebrate our lives
and the divine presence in this life.
Let us worship with great thanksgiving.**

Presenting a Bible to Caroline Witten (11:00)

Scripture Lesson Luke 5:1-11
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

A Service of Leave-Taking

LITANY OF LEAVE-TAKING FOR KEN, KELLY, ERICA, TARYN AND RYAN RAMSEY

Leader: It is with both joy and sadness that we send Ken, Kelly, Erica, Taryn, and Ryan to their new home in Austin. The feelings are mixed within us – we will miss these five who have been so deeply a part of us, yet we share a certain excitement for the path that lies ahead of them.

Community: Ken, Kelly, Erica, Taryn, and Ryan, you have enriched our lives and our community during the years we have spent together. We love you and celebrate who you are – Ken, we have known your presence as a chaplain and minister; Kelly, we have valued your friendship and involvement with our children; Erica, we have seen you grow and become an active member of our youth program; Taryn, we have been brightened by your infectious smile; and Ryan, we have marveled at your energy and enthusiasm. Our community will not be the same without you, but we are heartened by the fact that your proximity in Austin means that we will still see each other from time to time.

Ken, Kelly, Erica, Taryn, and Ryan: This community has become a home to us over the years. At Covenant, we have grown as people and as a family. We have followed our questions here, shared our stories, and been nurtured by the love and support we have found in this place.

Community: As you go to Austin and make a home there, we send you with our highest hopes and deepest blessings. We believe that wonderful things are in store for you. May you find them in the days to come.

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

Ken, Kelly, Erica, Taryn, and Ryan: As we go, we’ll carry with us the blessings of the Covenant community. We know that you will remain a part of us, and we a part of you.

All: We give thanks for the mystery of paths crossed and lives shared. We give thanks for the challenges and joys of every transition. We give thanks for the days ahead. Amen.

A Time for Children

*+ Response: Mueller
*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.*

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.**

Words of Assurance

Music “Choose Something Like A Star” Randall Thompson

Proclamation: What the Fisherman Said

Hymn 345 “Dear Lord (Creator Good and Kind)” Rest

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering
Offertory: Gaston Litaize
Prélude Liturgique No. 16

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Prayer of Dedication
**Loving God,
our many interconnections
draw us close to others
and to the whole created order;
and thus we may both care for
or unwittingly oppress our neighbors
and our world.
Help us to be mindful of these potentials;
encourage our acts of compassion;
grant us the grace of loving community.
Amen.**

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ 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
The liberal religious tradition is an invitation, not a mandate.
**It invites us to live with ambiguity
without giving in to facile compromise;
to engage in dialogue
without trying to control the conversation;
to be open to change
without accepting change too casually;
to take commitment seriously
but not blindly;
and to be engaged in culture
without succumbing to the culture’s values.**
**Liberal religion...asks us to pay attention.
It is an eyes wide open faith,
a faith without certainty.**

+ Recessional Hymn 434 Kingsfold
“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (8:15) Holy Manna
“As Each Far Horizon Beckons”

Postlude Herbert Murrill
Postlude on a Ground

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 **Sarah Cravens**.
The Worship Leaders are **Stephen Milano** and **Miller Kress**.
The Call to Worship is from David Sluyter in *Prayers for a Thousand Years*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.
The Opening Sentences are adapted from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.
The Litany of Leave-Taking was written by **Fran Avera** and **Jeremy Rutledge**.
The Unison Confession is from Jo Carr and Imogene Sorley in *Soul Weavings: A Gathering of Women’s Prayers*, edited by Lyn Klug.
The singers at the later service are **Jeannette Dixon, Margie Latham, Erica Lorentz, Beth Braun, Joyce Courtois, Eric Avera, Robert Carter, Jim Avera and Frank Shonka**.
The deacon offering the Pastoral Prayer is **Eric Avera**.
The Prayer of Dedication is from *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*, edited by Michael Schut.
The Affirmation of Faith is from *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the 21st Century* by Paul Rasor.