

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 continuing 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' context in history as well as his Jewish identity.

Adult Education:

Bible Discussion: In the Meeks House (1st floor), Bible Discussion. All are welcome. Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9.

In The Sanctuary: Retreat Brainstorming: Come participate in the planning for this year's retreat, which will be May 7-9 at Camp Allen. If you wonder what the retreat is all about, this will be a good time to ask questions and to help shape the experience. Come help make this year's retreat an opportunity for fun, good fellowship, reflection, and growth. Volunteers will be needed to organize the program, entertainment, including the Covenant talent show, meals, reservations, and car pooling.

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

Calendar

Sunday 3/7	Professional Clothing Drive First Sunday Food Offering
8:15 a.m.	Worship
9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
9:30 a.m.	Education Inquirers Class
10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday 3/9	6:30 p.m. Yoga
Thursday 3/11	7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 3/13	10:00 a.m. Garden Workday
Sunday 3/14	Daylight Savings Time Professional Clothing Drive
8:15 a.m.	Worship
9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
9:30 a.m.	Education Inquirers Class
10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
11:00 a.m.	Worship
12:00 p.m.	All Church Committee Meetings

Inquirers Class Continues

A class for visitors and those considering membership in Covenant meets today at 9:30 a.m. during education hour. The eight 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 the Meeks House.

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

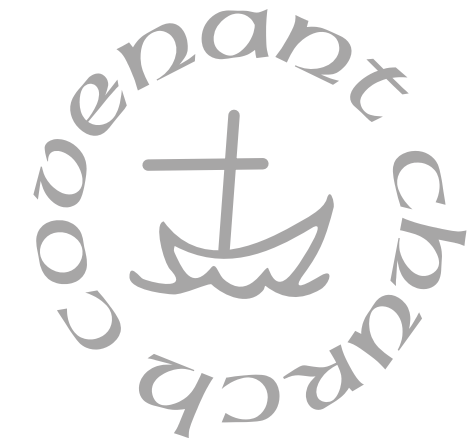
Laura Mayo
Associate Minister

Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

Pat Long
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo
Office Administrator



A Service of Worship for the Third Sunday in Lent 7 March 2010

*"Come now," he says,
taking us for all we're worth:
"sit in the low place."
Why not? we ask,
so easy to fall for a man
who makes us laugh.
"Invite those you do not know,
people you'd hardly notice."
He puts us on, we put him on;
another of his jokes.
"There's room," he says.
The meal is good,
absurdly salty,
but delicious.*

Kathleen Norris

please enter for worship in silence

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

* Prelude Felix Mendelssohn
 Adagio (Sonata No. 1)
 Choral Introit Llangloffan
 “O God of Every Nation”
 Call to Worship
 *+ Processional Hymn 343: Beecher
 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”
 *+ Opening Sentences

**Respect, I think, always implies imagination –
 the ability to see one another,
 across our inevitable differences,
 as living souls.**

Scripture Lesson John 3:1-17
 These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.
 A Time for Children

*+ Response: Jesus Loves Me
*Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
 Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
 Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
 Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**O God, empty me of angry judgments,
 and aching disappointments,
 and anxious trying,
 and breath into me
 something like quietness
 and confidence,
 that the lion and lamb in me
 may lie down together
 and be led by a trust
 as straightforward as a little child.**

**Catch my pride and doubt off guard
 that, at least for the moment,
 I may sense your presence
 and your caring,
 and be surprised
 by a sudden joy
 rising in me now
 to sustain me in the coming then.**

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

Words of Assurance
 Music “Ubi caritas” Maurice Duruflé
*Where charity and love are, God is there.
 Christ’s love has gathered us into one.
 In God, let us rejoice and be glad.
 Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
 And with sincere hearts, let us also love one another.
 Amen.*

Proclamation: Communion

+ Hymn 386 “O for a World” Azmon

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Offertory: Jean Langlais
 Fugue

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Prayer of Dedication
**If we believe in the Incarnation. . .
 there should be no one on earth
 in whom we are not prepared to see,
 in mystery,
 the presence of Christ.**

+ 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

**We join with the Earth
 and with each other,
 to bring new life to the land,
 to recreate the human community,
 to provide justice and peace,
 to remember our children,
 to remember who we are. . . .
 We join together
 as many and diverse expressions
 of one loving mystery,
 for the healing of the Earth
 and the renewal of all Life.**

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ Recessional Hymn Finlandia
 “This Is My Song”
*This is my song, O God of all the nations. A song of peace for lands afar
 and mine; This is my home, the country where my heart is; Here are my hopes,
 my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating with
 hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, And sunlight beams on clover
 leaf and pine; But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, And skies are
 everywhere as blue as mine; O hear my song, O God of all the nations, A
 song of peace for their land and for mine.*

Words of Dismissal

**We are all on a journey together . . .
 To the center of the universe . . .
 Look deep
 Into yourself, into another.
 It is to a center which is everywhere
 That is the holy journey . . .**

**As we experience and accept
 All that we really are . . .
 We grow in care.**

**We begin to embrace others
 As ourselves, and learn to live**

As one among many . . .

Choral Benediction Llangloffan
 “Keep Bright in Us the Vision”

Postlude Johannes Brahms
 Blessed Ye Who Live in Faith Unswerving

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 **Virginia Wells**.

The Worship Leaders are **Ellen Schwaller** and **Wilson Miller**.

The Call to Worship is from “Sunrise” by Mary Oliver.

The Opening Sentences are by Wendell Berry.

The Time for Children and the Pastoral Prayer are given by **David Ramsey**.

The Unison Confession is from *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Thomas Merton.

The Affirmation of Faith is a prayer of Pat Crane from *Life Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Unison Words of Dismissal are by Anne Hillman, reprinted in *Life Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.