

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: Bible Discussion will take place in the Meeks House.

In The Sanctuary: Grace Lutheran pastor Lura Groen will discuss her church's program for homeless youth.

Parents Forum - Parents Forum meets during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House.

Calendar

Sunday 3/28	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
	5:00 p.m.	Covenant Seder Meal at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Tuesday 3/30	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 3/31	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Thursday 4/1	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday 4/2	7:30 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Childcare provided)
Saturday 4/3	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	10:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 4/4	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

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

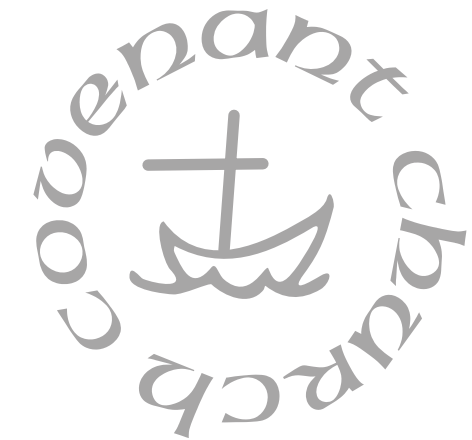
Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

Pat Long
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo
Office Administrator

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830



A Service of Worship for Palm/Passion Sunday 28 March 2010

*At any rate he was executed
one of many the land was occupied
by the Roman emperor who had himself worshipped as God
a Jew like Jeshua was not worth much there
and this here made the people mad
with his stories and miracles
he healed people simply through love
and said it came from God*

*That was really nothing new
but now many people understood it afresh
how near God is and especially to those
who do not count in the game of the powerful
and some now walked more upright also the women
who sold themselves to bring up children
hope spread like a forest fire
hope for the new earth the kingdom of peace*

Carola Moosbach

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude Jesus, My Great High Priest Healey Willan

Introit (11:00) “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” Valet will ich dir geben

Call to Worship

*+ Processional Hymn 89: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” Ellacombe

+ Opening Prayer

Today we enter Holy Week with its cycle of life, death, and new life.

Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name.

Jesus, the holy one, the whole one, enters Jerusalem as he rides on the back of a donkey colt.

Crowds wave palm branches and cry out, Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name. Jesus, holy one, enter the gates of our hearts today as we join you in this time of Passion.

With you, let us remember and celebrate your birth, your calling, your ministry.

Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name.

Jesus our mentor of wholeness, guide us through the streets of our journey. Open our eyes and our ears to the guiding of God’s spirit who calls us to costly faithfulness and joyous wholeness.

Let us sing with all our selves. Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name. Hosannah in the highest heaven. Amen.

Gospel lesson for Palm Sunday Luke 19:28-40

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.*

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

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

Offering Offertory: Johannes Brahms

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 18, No. 2

+ Prayer of Dedication

**It requires religious courage to rejoice.
It requires moral courage to grieve.
Today may we find such courage.**

+ 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

**God,
you did not display yourself
in power and majesty,
but, in the face of our expectations
and failure to understand,
you showed yourself
in the weakness and folly
of Jesus your son.
We ask you
that we may understand
your word
in this man on earth,
your strength, your wisdom
and the meaning in our lives.**

Call to Confession

Unison Confession

**From arrogance, pompousness, and
from thinking ourselves more important than we are,
may some saving sense of humor liberate us.**

**For allowing ourselves to ridicule the faith of others,
may we be forgiven.**

**From making war and calling it peace,
special privilege and calling it justice,
indifference and calling it tolerance,
pollution and calling it progress,
may we be cured.**

**God of our mixed up, tragic, aspiring, doubting,
and insurgent lives,
help us to be as good
as in our hearts we have always wanted to be. Amen.**

+ *Please stand if you are able*

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

+ Hymn 384 St. Margaret
“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

Gospel lesson for Passion Sunday Luke 23:1-25

These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

Music (11:00) Anton Bruckner
“Christus factus est”
*Christ became obedient for us unto death, even the death of the cross.
Wherefore God also has exalted Him and has given Him a name which is
above every name.*

Meditation: Send in the Clown

+ Recessional Hymn 7 Mit Freuden zart
“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth”

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00) Deo gracias
“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

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 **Jay Hooker** and **Sam Miller**.

The Call to Worship is an adapted prayer of A. Powell Davies in *Celebrating Easter and Spring: An Anthology of Unitarian Universalist Readings*, edited by Carl Seaburg and Mark Harris.

The Opening Prayer is from “Passion Sunday” by Beth Richardson in *Imaging the Word*, edited by Kenneth Lawrence.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from and inspired by the writing of Søren Kierkegaard.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Your Word is Near* by Huub Oosterhuis.

The Unison Confession is from Harry Meserve in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

Nancy Henry made the Palm banners.