

## 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:

There are no adult classes on April 4 (Easter) or April 11 due to the church's Business Meeting. Educational opportunities for adults will resume in full force with Earth Day related topics thereafter.

**Parents Forum** - Parents Forum meets every third Sunday of the month during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House.

## Calendar

Sunday 4/4	8:15 a.m.	First Sunday Food Offering
	9:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
		Education
		Inquirers Class
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday 4/6	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 4/7	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Thursday 4/8	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 4/10	9:00 a.m.	Art As Prayer
Sunday 4/11	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Children's Education
		All-Church Business Meeting
		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

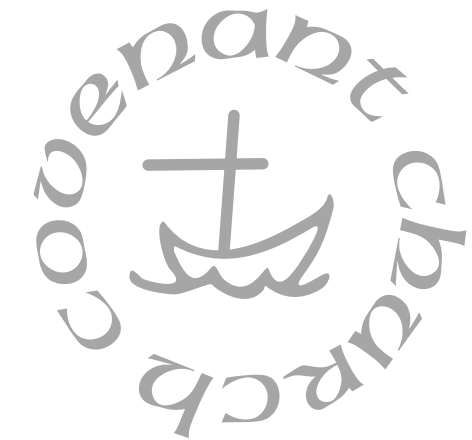
Organist

Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo

Office Administrator



## *A Service of Worship for Easter Day 4 April 2010*

*Resurrection happens now  
or it does not happen at all.  
It happens in us and around us,  
in soul and history,  
in nature and universe.*

Paul Tillich

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude  
 Christ is Arisen  
 J. S. Bach  
 Choral Introit (11:00)  
 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”  
 Llanfair  
 Call to Worship

\*+ Processional Hymn 464:  
 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”  
 Hymn to Joy

+ Opening Prayer  
**Living God, astound us one more with signs of your presence.  
 In the withered corners of our love, amaze us with small, swelling buds.  
 In the dead center of our despair, astonish us with tender shoots of hope.  
 Across the barren fields of betrayal, let our bewildered eyes open  
 to the greening of forgiveness.  
 Into the frozen certainties of our endings, breathe warmth,  
 that faith again may flower and exude the honey-damp fragrance  
 of life.  
 All praise and thanks to you, surprising God.  
 Amen.**

Scripture Lesson  
 Luke 24:1-12

These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

\*+ Response:  
 Madrid  
*Come children, join to sing “Alleluia Amen.”  
 Loud praise to Christ we sing “Alleluia Amen.”  
 Let all with heart and voice, now on this day rejoice.  
 Praise is God’s gracious choice, “Alleluia Amen.”*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

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

Unison Confession  
**Easter has come and yet our lives are not changed.  
 We accept the power of death in us.  
 We give up on healing and hope for others.  
 We witness many forms of death around us.  
 Roll away the stones from our hearts,  
 that we might welcome Easter  
 into the center of our lives every day.  
 Amen.**

Words of Assurance  
 Music (8:15) arr. Ken Heitshusen  
 “Now the Green Blade Rises”  
 (11:00) George Frederic Handel  
 “Hallelujah”

Proclamation: The Proof is in the Pudding

+ Hymn 121 Puer nobis nascitur  
 “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

Invitation

Prayer

Offering  
 Offertory: Alexandre Guilmant  
 Paraphrase on “Judas Maccabaeus”

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Prayer of Dedication

**On this day  
 we give ourselves  
 to religion without masks  
 to questions without answers  
 to searching without end  
 and love without limit.**

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ Doxology  
*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

**Jesus is alive to us  
 only as he was alive to them,  
 as a real invitation  
 into a way of life  
 we can see reflected  
 in his own life,  
 and the God  
 to be encountered there.**

+ Recessional Hymn 105  
 “Because You Live, O Christ”  
 Vruechten

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00)  
 “Hail the Lord of Earth and Heaven”  
 Llanfair

Postlude  
 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing  
 Healey Willan

## 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 **Luke Witten**.

The Worship Leaders are **Sidney Burrus** and **Sam Miller**.

The Call to Worship, “To Jesus on Easter” by Vassar Miller, is read by **Joyce Courtois**.

The Opening Prayer is “Signs of Life” from *The Well is Deep: Prayers to Draw Up Living Water* by Virginia Rickeman.

The Unison Confession is from *An Improbable Gift of Blessing* by Maren Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant.

The singers at the early service are **Jeanette Dixon, Casey Gambill, Nancy Preston, Beth Braun, Joyce Courtois, Robert Carter, Josh Cowan, Jim Avera** and **Chuck Fleming**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by **Jeremy Rutledge**.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Beyond the Passion: Rethinking the Death and Life of Jesus* by Stephen Patterson.