

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 is a church Business Meeting during the education hour today. Adult classes other than the Inquirers class will not meet. Educational opportunities for adults will resume April 18 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 4/11	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Children's Education
		Inquirers Class
		All-Church Business Meeting
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	All-Church Committee Meetings
Tuesday 4/13	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 4/14	7:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Thursday 4/15	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday 4/16	7:30 p.m.	Taizé Prayer at Villa de Matel Chapel
Saturday 4/17	9:00 a.m.	CCSC Emergency Services Sorting
	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
	1:00 p.m.	String Ensemble
Sunday 4/18	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education
		Parents Forum
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Missions Committee Litter Pick-Up
	5:00 p.m.	Literature Book Group
	6:00 p.m.	Theology Book Group

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

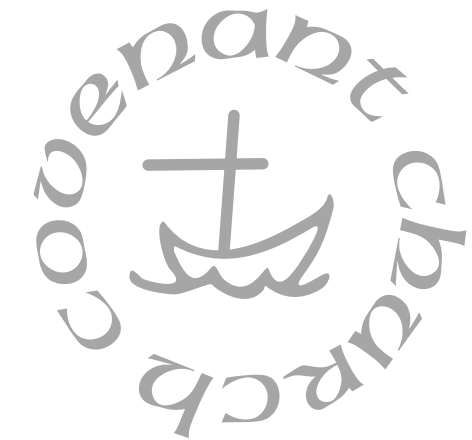
Organist

Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo

Office Administrator



A Service of Worship for 11 April 2010

Jesus was a powerful teacher who created events in which belief and doubt were purposefully thrown into confusion.

Jennifer Michael Hecht

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude
“Christ Lay in the Bonds of Death”
J. S. Bach
Choral Introit (11:00)
“Ubi caritas”
Taizé

*Live in charity and steadfast love.
God will dwell with you.*

Call to Worship

*+ Processional Hymn 300:
“Down to Earth, as a Dove”
Personent Hodie

+ Opening Sentences

Some beliefs are like walled gardens.
They encourage exclusiveness,
and the feeling of being especially privileged.

**Other beliefs are expansive
and lead the way
into wider and deeper sympathies.**

Some beliefs are like shadows,
clouding children’s days
with fears of unknown calamities.

**Other beliefs are like sunshine,
blessing children
with the warmth of happiness.**

Some beliefs are divisive,
separating the saved from the unsaved,
friends from enemies.

**Other beliefs are bonds
in a world community,
where sincere differences beautify the pattern.**

Some beliefs are like blinders,
shutting off the power
to choose one’s own direction.

**Other beliefs are like gateways
opening wide vistas
for exploration.**

Scripture Lesson
John 20:19-31

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.”*

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

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**All of us tend to hold certainty dearer than truth.
We want to learn only what we already know;
we want to become only what we already are...
and doubts, Lord knows, are important
for the development of religious faith if,
with St. Augustine, you “believe in thinking
and wish to think in believing.”**

**But if doubts are important, wonder is all-important.
None of us scoffs at the stars, nor do we sneer at sunsets.
Yet we depreciate so much else, it seems almost inevitable that,
as civilization advances, the sense of wonder declines.
We forget that both the tree of life and the tree of knowledge
are deeply rooted in the soil of mystery.**

Words of Assurance

Response
“Lord Jesus Christ”
Taizé

Following the solo, please join in singing “Lord Jesus Christ.”

Music (8:15) “Variations on a Theme by Rossini” Frederic Chopin
(11:00) “I Will Not Leave You Comfortless” Everett Titcomb

Meditation: The Shadow of a Doubt

+ Hymn 117
“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!”
(verses 1, 3, and 5)
o filii et filiae

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory:
“Aria”
Paul Manz

+ Prayer of Dedication

**Lead us from darkness to the light;
lead us from illusion to wisdom;
lead us from death to deathlessness.
Lead us from conflict and suffering
to harmony, peace, and happiness.**

+ *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.*
Old Hundredth

+ Affirmation of Faith

**Mystery is the crux of religion
that is almost always missing
in our public expressions of religion.**

**It eludes and evaporates
beneath the demeaning glibness
of debates and sound bites.**

Mystery resists absolutes.

**It can hold truth, compassion,
and open possibility
in relationship...**

**If mystery is real, even more real
than what we can touch with our five senses,
uncertainty and ambiguity are blessed.**

**We have to live with that,
and struggle with its implications together.**

**Mystery acknowledged is,
paradoxically, humanizing.**

+ Recessional Hymn 399
“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”
Dunlap’s Creek

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00)
“Ubi caritas”
Taizé

*Live in charity and steadfast love.
God will dwell with you.*

Postlude
“Final” (Symphony No. 1)
Louis Vierne

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 **Elizabeth Turner** and **Blakely Kress**.

The Call to Worship is “From the Place Where We are Right” by Yehuda Amichai.

The Opening Sentences are from Sophia Fahs in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Unison Confession is from *The Heart Is a Little to the Left* by William Sloane Coffin.

The music for unaccompanied flute is offered by **Pam Vincent**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from the *Upanishads*.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters and How to Talk About It* by Krista Tippett.

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