

## 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:

**In the Sanctuary** - Bruce Yaeger will continue the discussion of clips from the documentary, "Renewal: Stories from America's Religious-Environmental Movement." We'll spend fifteen minutes viewing the video and follow with discussion.

**Bible Discussion** - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Tim Wegner. Text: Acts 9:36-43.

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

## Calendar

Sunday 4/25	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
	4:00 p.m.	Bach Program
Tuesday 4/27	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 4/28	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Thursday 4/29	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 5/1	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
	4:00 p.m.	Kids Night Out
Sunday 5/2	8:15 a.m.	Worship
		First Sunday Food Offering
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	All-Church Committee Meetings

## Helpful Information

**Childcare** Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 8:15 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.

**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

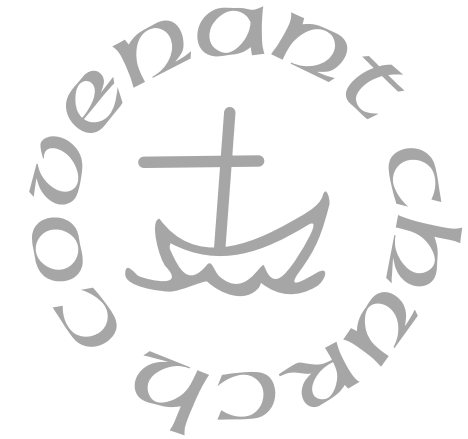
Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

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 25 April 2010

*You speak in silence  
and all languages interpret you.  
You are the truth of all words,  
their permanence and their comfort  
and every person who listens with an open mind  
can hear you in his language  
and in her own life.  
Put words into our mouths, then,  
that comfort and shed light,  
make us alive to justice and to right,  
groan in us for a new creation,  
guide our hearts and our faith,  
let our thoughts and our labors be fruitful  
and give us the bread of peace.*

Huub Oosterhuis

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude Harold Darke  
“In Green Pastures”  
Choral Introit (11:00) Nun danket Alle Gott  
“Now Thank We All Our God”

Call to Worship  
\*+ Processional Hymn 504: Union Seminary  
“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

+ Opening Sentences  
This house is for the ingathering of nature and human nature.  
**It is a house of friendships, a haven in trouble,  
an open room for the encouragement of our struggle.**  
It is a house of freedom, guarding the dignity and worth of every person.  
**It offers a platform for the free voice,  
for declaring, both in times of security and danger,  
the full and undivided conflict of opinions.**  
It is a house of truth-seeking, where scientists can encourage devotion  
to their quest, where mystics can abide  
in a community of searchers.  
**It is a house of art, enacting its celebrations with melodies  
and handiworks.**  
It is a house of prophecy, outrunning times past and times present  
in visions of growth and progress.  
**This house is a cradle for our dreams,  
the workshop of common endeavor.**

Litany of Welcoming  
Leader: Believing that it is in response to the call of God that we  
have come to this place, we publicly acknowledge the  
teachings of Jesus as our pattern for life and all of life’s  
relationships.  
**Community: Michelle, Amy, Nancy, Bob, Liz, Al and Helen, we  
welcome you into this community of faith. Your presence  
among us has already been a source of blessing and joy.**  
**All: We now enter into covenant with one another in the  
spirit of Christ to live together in love and to care for  
one another and for our neighbors as God cares for each  
one of us.**  
Leader: In the understanding that we are called to a shared life, will  
each of you express your covenant with us?  
New Members: I covenant with you to share the joys and sorrows and to  
bear the burdens of this community. I will pray sensitively  
for you, affirming in the spirit of Christ that we are our  
neighbor’s keeper.  
**Community: Together with you, and with the help of God, we  
intend by the corporate sharing of our lives to build a  
witness of faith, love, understanding, and strength in the  
world.**  
**All: Realizing that it was to the world of human need that  
Jesus came, and it was for the world of people that he  
gave himself, and that it is in the world that we find  
ourselves called to be his servants, we dedicate our lives  
to ministry in the world, ever alert to the voice of human  
need wherever it may be found.**

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

Scripture Lesson Psalm 23  
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  
Unison Confession  
**We confess  
that we sometimes need  
a shepherd  
a sage  
a guiding hand  
or a word of wisdom.**

Words of Assurance  
Music (8:15) “Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor” Traditional  
(11:00) “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” Virgil Thomson

Proclamation: Batter Up  
+ Hymn 272 “God of the Sparrow” Roeder

Invitation  
Pastoral Prayer  
Offering  
Offertory: J. S. Bach  
Prelude in D Major, BWV 532

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ Prayer of Dedication  
**May we listen to one another in openness and mercy  
May we listen to plants and animals in wonder and respect  
May we listen to our own hearts in love and forgiveness  
May we listen to God in quietness and in awe.  
And in this listening,  
Which is boundless in its beauty,  
May we find the wisdom to cooperate  
With a healing spirit, a divine spirit,  
Who beckons us into peace and community and creativity.  
We do not ask for a perfect world.  
but we do ask for a better world.  
We ask for a deep listening.**

+ 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  
**Love is the doctrine of this church,  
The quest of truth is its sacrament,  
And service is its prayer.**  
**To dwell together in peace,  
To seek knowledge in freedom,  
To serve human need,  
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony  
with the Divine—**  
**Thus do we covenant with each other  
and with God.**

+ Recessional Hymn 422 Beach Spring  
“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”  
Words of Dismissal  
Choral Benediction (11:00) Nun danket Alle Gott  
“O May This Bounteous God”  
Postlude J. G. Walther  
“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

## 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 **Jack Camino** and **Blakely Kress**.  
The Call to Worship is “Love After Love” by Derek Wolcott.  
The Opening Sentences are from Kenneth Patton in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the  
1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.  
New members welcomed today are: **Michelle Bennack, Amy Hopper, Nancy and  
Bob Warren, Liz and Al Turner** and **Helen Jones**.  
The Unison Confession is by **Jeremy Rutledge**.  
**Reagan Miller** performs “Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor.”  
Our guest proclaimer is **Ann Christensen**.  
The Prayer of Dedication is from Jay McDaniel in *Prayers for a Thousand Years*,  
edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.  
The Affirmation of faith is from Griswold Williams in *Singing the Living Tradition*.