

## 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** - Mary Caroll Swearingen will bring us her insights about climate change based upon her experience as a professional arborist and her reading of Jim Hansen's recent book.

**Bible Discussion** - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Tim Wegner on May 2. Text: Revelation 21:1-6.

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

## Calendar

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
Tuesday 5/4	12:00 p.m.	All-Church Committee Meeting
	9:00 a.m.	Covenant Daytime Play Group
Wednesday 5/5	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Thursday 5/6	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday 5/7 - 5/9		Covenant Church Retreat
Sunday 5/9	11:00 a.m.	<b>One Service</b> <b>No Educational Offerings</b>

## 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

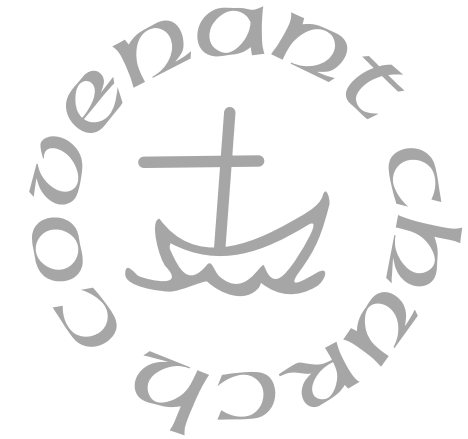
Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Baik  
Office Administrator

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830



## A Service of Worship for 2 May 2010

*There is nothing essentially wrong with power.  
The problem is that in America power is unequally distributed.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude  
Prelude in D Minor  
J. L. Krebs

Choral Introit (8:15)  
“All Who Love and Serve Your City”  
Charlestown

Call to Worship

\*+ Processional Hymn 436:  
“We Are Your People”  
Whitfield

+ Opening Sentences

**Come, let us worship together.**

**Let us open our minds to the challenge of reason,  
open our hearts to the healing of love,  
open our lives to the calling of conscience,  
open our souls to the comfort of joy.**

**Astonished by the miracle of life,  
grateful for the gift of companionship,  
confident in the power of living faith,  
we are here gathered.**

**Come, let us worship together.**

Scripture Lesson  
Mark 6:30-44

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

**O Thou who has made extinct  
Every system of relationship,  
We confess that we would prefer  
To live out of past modes of authority and obedience  
Rather than risk ourselves in the ambiguity and relativity  
Of creating new forms of human relatedness.  
Require us to turn our face to the future,  
On behalf of all people  
As Jesus did.  
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music (8:15)  
“The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee”  
Jean Berger

(11:00)  
Adagio, from “Divertimento”  
Franz Joseph Haydn  
Transcribed by  
Gregor Piatigorsky

Proclamation: The Size of Our Dreams

+ Hymn 514  
“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”  
Linstead

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory:  
Sarabande on “Land of Rest”  
Gerald Near

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Prayer of Dedication

**May the parable  
remind us to ask  
how much we really need.**

**May the parable  
remind us to ask  
who does not have enough.**

**May the parable  
remind us to ask  
what kind of kingdom  
Jesus was really teaching.**

+ 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

**This is the mission of our faith:  
To teach the fragile art of hospitality;  
To revere both the critical mind and the generous heart;  
To prove that diversity need not mean divisiveness;  
And to witness to all  
that we must hold the whole world  
in our hands.**

+ Recessional Hymn 298  
“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”  
In Babilone

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (8:15)  
“In Your Day of Wealth and Plenty”  
Charlestown

Postlude  
Fugue in D Minor  
J. L. Krebs

## 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 **Byron Kress**.

The Worship Leader is **Sidney Burrus**.

The Call to Worship is from the journal of Søren Kierkegaard.

The Opening Sentences are from Lindsay Bates in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The Time for Children is led by **Reagan Miller**.

The Unison Confession is adapted from an unknown source.

**Susan Wegner** is the cellist at the second service.

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

The Affirmation of Faith is from Bill Schulz in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

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

+ *Please stand if you are able*