

Education Hour

There will be no educational offerings this Sunday.

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

Calendar

Sunday 5/9	11:00 a.m.	One Service No Educational Offerings
Tuesday 5/11	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 5/12	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
	7:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Thursday 5/13	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 5/15	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Sunday 5/16	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

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.

Celebrations and Concerns If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please post it on the announcements board in the Narthex or e-mail it to prayer@covenanthouston.org.

Covenant Newsletter There is a weekly Newsletter available online at www.covenanthouston.org. To have this Newsletter e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail request to office@covenanthouston.org.

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 9 May 2010

We have solved, by fair experiment, the great and interesting question whether freedom of religion is compatible with order in government and obedience to the laws. And we have experienced the quiet as well as the comfort which results from leaving every one to profess freely and openly those principles of religion which are the inductions of his own reason and the serious convictions of his own inquiries.

Thomas Jefferson

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude Vivaldi/Walther
Concerto in B Minor (1st Movement)

Call to Worship

*+ Processional Hymn 285: Austrian Hymn
“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

+ Opening Sentences

**When faith is completely replaced by creed,
worship by discipline,
love by habit;
when the crisis of today is ignored
because of the splendor of the past;
when faith becomes an heirloom
rather than a living fountain;
when religion speaks only in the name of authority
rather than with the voice of compassion,
its message becomes meaningless.**

Scripture Lesson Matthew 22:15-22

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 sometimes even our finest ideas
like the separation of church and state
become excuses for inaction.**

**We confess
that sometimes even our best traits
like deeply thoughtful discussion
become ways of avoiding commitment.**

**We confess
that sometimes even our true desires
like an inclusive liberal community
become comfortable habits.**

**This day
may we be drawn
to action, commitment,
and a newly unconventional faith.**

Words of Assurance

Music Felix Mendelssohn
“The Lord Is A Mighty God”

Proclamation: Something There is that Doesn’t Love a Wall

+ Hymn 418 Ich halte treulich still
“God, Bless Your Church with Strength”

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory: Toccata Georgi Mushel

+ Prayer of Dedication

**Keep my mind clear and my heart open,
that I might hear what others have heard
and listen to that still small voice
that speaks down the ages.**

+ 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

**We believe good religion makes justice and mercy
that is, love, the central value of human life.**

**It is bad religion to deify doctrines and creeds.
they are only signposts.
Love is the sole hitching post.**

**Much the same can be said of religious traditions.
Never should we ignore the wisdom of our ancestors.
But a tradition is not an oracle;
rather, it is a constant challenge,
an unending task.**

**A tradition that cannot be changed
also cannot be preserved.
This lesson is as old as history itself.**

+ Recessional Hymn 420 Cwm Rhondda
“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Words of Dismissal

Postlude Vivaldi/Walther
Concerto in B Minor (3rd Movement)

Worship

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service.

The Worship Leader is **Sally Ridgway**.

The Call to Worship is from Kenneth Patton in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Opening Sentences are from *Quest for God* by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The Time for Children is led by **Martha Murphree**.

The Unison Confession is by **Jeremy Rutledge**.

The singers are **Beth Braun, Patricia Burgess, Robert Carter, Joyce Courtois, Millard Eiland, Casey Gambill, Jay Hooker, Erica Lorentz and Frank Shonka**.

The proclaimer is **Martha Murphree**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Awakening the Soul: A Book of Daily Devotions*, edited by John Morgan.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from “God and the World’s Disorders” by William Sloane Coffin.

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

+ *Please stand if you are able*