

## 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** - "A Taste of the Retreat." Were you not able to go to Covenant's Retreat this past weekend? Or did you go, and would like to share something you did or experienced there? (It could be something you already shared, or something you have not yet told anyone about.) Or would you like to hear more from people on the retreat who you did not get a chance to talk with much? Then please come to the Retreat Sharing during Education Hour, as a way of letting the creativity displayed during the retreat expand even more into the life of Covenant Church.

**Bible Discussion** - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Margie Latham on May 16. Text: Acts 16:16-34.

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

## Calendar

Sunday 5/16	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education Parents Forum
Tuesday 5/18	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Literature Book Group
Wednesday 5/19	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Thursday 5/20	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 5/22	9:00 a.m.	Art As Prayer
Sunday 5/23	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
	6:00 p.m.	Theology Book Group

## 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](mailto:prayer@covenanthouston.org).

**Covenant Newsletter** There is a weekly Newsletter available online at [www.covenanthouston.org](http://www.covenanthouston.org). To have this Newsletter e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto: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

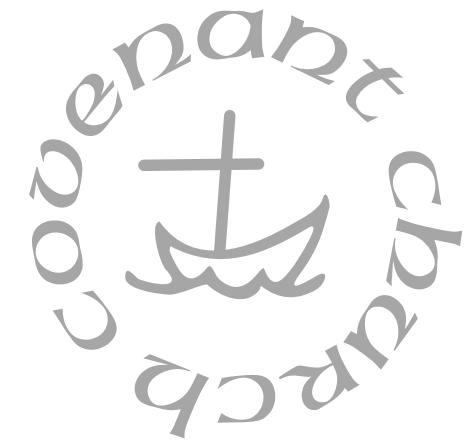
Organist

Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Baik

Office Administrator



## A Service of Worship for Sunday 16 May 2010

In the dark, a child might ask, *What is the world?*  
just to hear his sister  
promise, *An unfinished wing of heaven,*  
just to hear his brother say,  
*A house inside a house,*  
but most of all to hear his mother answer,  
*One more song, then you go to sleep.*

How could anyone in that bed guess  
the question finds its beginning  
in the answer long growing  
inside the one who asked, that restless boy,  
the night's darling?

Later, a man lying awake,  
he might ask it again,  
just to hear the silence  
charge him, *This night*  
*arching over your sleepless wondering,*

*this night, the near ground*  
*every reaching-out-to overreaches,*

just to remind himself  
out of what little earth and duration,  
out of what immense good-bye,  
each must make a safe place of his heart,  
before so strange and wild a guest  
as God approaches.

Li-Young Lee

*please enter for worship in silence*

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830

\* Prelude Camille Saint-Saëns  
Fantaisie in E-flat Major: Con moto

Choral Introit (11:00) Was Gott tut  
“O God, What You Ordain Is Right”

Call to Worship

\*+ Processional Hymn 210: St. Anne  
“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

+ Opening Prayer

**God, our Mother,  
Living Water,  
River of Mercy,  
Source of Life,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
who quenches our thirst,  
refreshes our weariness,  
bathes and washes and cleanses our wounds,  
be for us always a fountain of life  
and for all the world a river of hope  
springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair.  
Honor and blessing,  
Glory and praise  
To You forever.  
Amen.**

Scripture Lesson Psalm 90

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

A Time for Children

\*+ Response: Personent Hodie

*Down to earth, as a dove, Came to light holy love:  
Jesus Christ from above bringing great salvation  
Meant for every nation.  
Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring.  
Christ is here, ever near! Gloria in excelsis.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

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

Unison Confession

**Listen to me, God,  
as a Mother,  
and hold me warm,  
and forgive me.**

**Soften my experiences  
into wisdom,  
my pride  
into acceptance,  
my longing  
into trust,  
and soften me  
into love**

**and to others  
and to you.**

Words of Assurance

Music (8:15) St. Helena  
“There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”

(11:00) African-American Spiritual  
“Deep River”

Proclamation: “Cups and Cradles”

+ Hymn 342 Intercessor  
“By Gracious Powers”

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory: Camille Saint-Saëns  
Fantaisie in E-flat Major: Allegro di molto e con fuoco

+ Prayer of Dedication

**God our Mother,  
for the miracle of continuing creation  
in the conception and birth of a child,  
we give you thanks.  
For the miracle of our own birth  
and the lessons we have learned about your love  
from a mother’s tenderness,  
we give you thanks.  
For the miracle of being human and being alive,  
of loving, of sharing,  
of learning, of growing  
and for those who nurture us,  
we give you thanks. Amen.**

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ 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

**Listen to what God is saying to us:  
You are my child.  
You are written on the palm of my hand.  
You are hidden in the shadow of my hand.  
I have molded you from the secret of the earth.  
I have knitted you together in your mother’s womb.  
You belong to me.  
I am yours. You are mine.  
I have called you from eternity  
and you are the one who is held safe  
and embraced in love from eternity to eternity.  
You belong to me.  
I hold you safe and I want you to know that  
whatever happens to you, I am always there.  
I am always there.  
I am always there.  
I will always be there and hold you in my embrace.**

**You are mine.  
You are my child.  
You belong to my home.  
You belong to my intimate life  
and I will never let you go.  
I will be faithful to you.**

+ Recessional Hymn 528 Sarum  
“Give Thanks for Life”

Sung Benediction Was Gott tut  
“O God, What You Ordain Is Right”

Postlude J.S. Bach  
Sanctify Us By Thy Goodness

## 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 Leaders are **Jim Avera** and **Carson Graf**.

The Call to Worship is by Rebecca Parker in “What They Dreamed by Ours to Do”, an article in the collection, *Redeeming Time*.

The Opening Prayer is a prayer of the Medical Mission Sisters reprinted in *Life Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Unison Confession is from *Guerrillas of Grace* by Ted Loder.

The soloist at the early service is **Jim Avera**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Touch Holiness*, by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

The Affirmation of Faith is from Henri Nouwen’s *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*.