

Education Hour

Child Care Training - This Sunday, children and youth ages 11 and up (and interested adults) are invited to spend education hour getting free child care training. Laura and members of the Children and Youth Committee will lead a workshop on babysitting basics. Please consider attending so that you may put your new skills to work in the nursery ... and your neighborhood. Let Laura know if you're interested. We will meet in the nursery during 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 Science and Religion discussion will be led by Tim Wegner and Bruce Yaeger in a two part series.

Bible Discussion - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Margie Latham on May 23. Text: Acts 2:1-21.

Parents Forum - Parents Forum meets every third Sunday of the month during Education Hour.

Calendar

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
	12:00 p.m.	Doctor of Ministry Celebration for Jeremy
	6:00 p.m.	Theology Book Group
Tuesday 5/25	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 5/26	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Thursday 5/27	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 5/29	10:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Sunday 5/30	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

Doctor of Ministry Celebration for Jeremy

This month Jeremy has completed his Doctor of Ministry. The Covenant community will celebrate Jeremy's accomplishment after the second service this Sunday, with cake and punch. Please come and be a part of the celebration.

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



A Service of Worship for Pentecost Sunday 23 May 2010

We are here to help each other get through this thing, whatever it is.

Dr. Mark Vonnegut

please enter for worship in silence

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

* Prelude
Come Holy Spirit, Creator God
J. S. Bach

Choral Introit (11:00)
“Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost”
Anderson

Call to Worship
“The glory of God is every creature fully alive.”
Irenaeus

*+ Processional Hymn 313:
“Come Down, O Love Divine”
Down Ampney

+ Opening Sentences
**For one human being to love another:
that is perhaps the most difficult of our tasks,
the ultimate,
the last test and proof,
the work for which all other work
is but preparation.**

Scripture Lesson
Genesis 11:1-9
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

Unison Confession
**We confess
that we confuse each other
when we project our wants and needs
onto our sisters and brothers.**

**We confess
that we confound each other
when we fail to imagine
ideas and experiences different from our own.**

**We confess
that we contradict each other
so long as we each go our own ways
without ever considering the whole.**

**God of our confusing, confounding,
contradictory lives,
we pray for eyes to see
and ears to hear
the divine in the discomfited human.**

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

Words of Assurance
Music (8:15)
(11:00)
Suite No. 5 (Allemande)
“Ave Verum”
J.S. Bach
W. A. Mozart

Meditation: Breaking the Bread of Babel
+ Hymn 317
“Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness”
Geneva

Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Offertory:
Come Holy Spirit
Dietrich Buxtehude

+ Prayer of Dedication
**I find some comfort in our communal clumsiness.
We each stumble along the uncharted path.
Practicing with others is a useful antidote
to the isolation of insight.
We walk together sharing the silence,
giving each other support
as we investigate our lives.
We forget and remember, moment after moment,
each of us making an effort
to deepen our capacities
for observation of self and other.
By learning in community, we practice breathing
in a circle of friends and companions...**
**In this steady silence I ask for help to walk more gracefully,
for patience to cultivate an attentive heart.**

+ 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.*

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table
Communion Hymn 515
“Now to Your Table Spread”
Love Unknown

Sharing the Bread and the Cup
*If you would like to take communion, but are unable to come forward,
please notify the usher and the elements will be brought to you.*
*Our communion elements include both wine and water.
Gluten-free bread is also available.*

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ Affirmation of Faith

**It is not the sparks
caused by our differences
that haunt me
but the brimstone
of those bent
on assimilation,
on annihilation.**

**I have felt the template
on my flesh,
I have seen the wounded
and the scalded,
and I am not persuaded
that if we look alike
God will love us more.**

**I believe God loves the languages
of those struggling to speak
the words embedded in our flesh
of every shape and hue.**

**And I believe God blesses
every space where we are welcomed
to speak with tongues of fire
and hear with hearts aflame.**

+ Recessional Hymn 321
“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”
Song 13

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00)
“All Our Words Will Fade Away”
Anderson

Postlude
Maurice Duruflé

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 is **David Taylor**.
The Call to Worship is an affirmation of the early Christian bishop Irenaeus, “The glory of God is every creature fully alive.” It is read in one or both services by **Kathleen Cook** and **Daton Dodson** (German), **Laura Mayo** (Hebrew), **Nancy Preston** (Spanish), **David Ramsey** (Russian), **Jeremy Rutledge** (French), **Sara Keckler Rutledge** (Mandarin Chinese), and **Mendy Smith** (Malay).

The Opening Sentences are from *Letters to a Young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke.

The Unison Confession is by **Jeremy Rutledge**.
Mendy Smith plays the viola at the early service.

The instrumentalists at the second service are **Sam, Zach** and **Lloyd Bennack, Charles Canales, Josh Cowan, Linda Day, Miller Kress, Mendy Smith,** and **Susan Wegner**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *The Attentive Heart: Conversations with Trees* by Stephanie Kaza.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *In Wisdom’s Path: Discovering the Sacred in Every Season* by Jan Richardson.