

Education Hour

Children & Youth Education:

Our children and youth will meet together for Summer Sunday School. We will gather in the Library of the church building each week to learn about the people of the Old Testament and to have a lot of fun.

Adult Education:

In the Sanctuary - Guest teacher John Boles, Professor of History at Rice University, will bring us insights about Thomas Jefferson's Religion.

Bible Discussion - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Margie Latham on June 27. Text: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14.

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

Calendar

Sunday 6/27	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Literary Book Group - <i>Light in August</i> by William Faulkner
Tuesday 6/29	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 6/30	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
	6:30 p.m.	Fifth Wednesday Church Supper
Sunday 7/4	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
		First Sunday Food Offering

Helpful Information

Childcare Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 10:15 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 To subscribe to the monthly newsletter, please send an e-mail request to office@covenanthouston.org. The newsletter is also available online at www.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

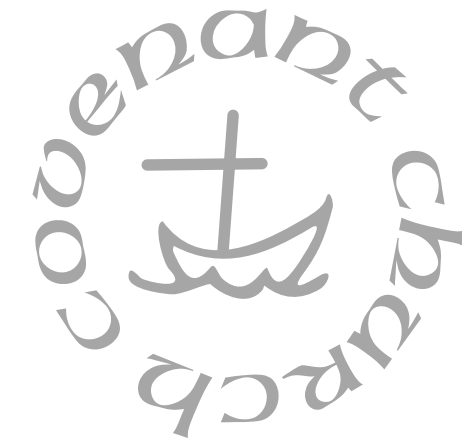
Fran Avera
Minister of Music

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 Pride Sunday 27 June 2010

*Whoever degrades another degrades me,
And whatever is done or said returns at last to me...
I speak the pass-word primeval, I give the sign of democracy,
By God! I will accept nothing which all cannot have their
counterpart of on the same terms...*

Walt Whitman

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude David Ashley White

“Aria”

A Time for Children

+ Doxology

Old Hundredth

Call to Worship

*+ Response:

Personent Hodie

*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.*

*+ Opening Hymn 386

O for a World

Azmon

*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.*

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

+ Opening Sentences

**But we have only begun
to love the earth.**

**We have only begun
to imagine the fullness of life.**

**How could we tire of hope?
– so much is in the bud.**

**How can desire fail?
– we have only begun
to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision
how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,
not as oppressors.**

**Surely our river
cannot already be hastening
into the sea of nonbeing?**

**Surely it cannot drag,
in the silt,
all that is innocent?**

**Not yet, not yet –
there is too much broken
that must be mended,**

**too much hurt we have done
to each other
that cannot yet be forgiven.**

**We have only begun to know
the power that is in us
if we would join our solitudes
in the communion of struggle.**

**So much is unfolding that must
complete its gesture,
so much is in bud.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**In prayer we open our hearts
to the deepest layer
of what it means to be human,
and in that process
we are transformed...**

Words of Assurance

Music

“I Will Arise”

Robert Shaw and Alice Parker

Meditation: Stories Not Often Told

+ Hymn 504

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Union Seminary

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory:

“O God, Thou Faithful God”

Flor Peeters

+ Prayer of Dedication

**To be fully human, fully myself,
To accept all that I am, all that you envision,
This is my prayer.
Walk with me out to the rim of life,
Beyond security.
Take me to the exquisite edge of courage
And release me to become.**

+ Please stand if you are able

Invitation to the Table

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.*

+ Affirmation of Faith

**Let us commit ourselves to the promotion
of basic human values, especially compassion,
which is the foundation of human happiness.**

**Let us nurture the seeds of compassion
in ourselves and each other.**

**Let the indispensability of compassion
touch us all, whether we are rich or poor,
educated our uneducated, religious or nonreligious.**

**Let us be serious about creating
a more caring and happier world.**

+ Closing Hymn 343

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

Beecher

Words of Dismissal

Postlude

Duke Johann Ernst/J. S. Bach
Concerto in G Major, 1st 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 **Ellen Schwaller**.

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

The Opening Sentences are from “Beginners” by Denise Levertov.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Awakening the Soul: A Book of Daily
Devotions* by John Morgan.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *When the Heart Waits* by Sue Monk Kidd.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Toward a True Kinship of Faiths:
How the World’s Religions Can Come Together* by His Holiness the Dalai
Lama.

Scripture Lesson

Galatians 3:28

These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

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