

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 Hebrew Bible and to have a lot of fun.

Adult Education:

In the Sanctuary - Nick Stepp will continue our discussion of "What is Justice?" We'll talk about what it means for us--as a church, as individuals, and as a society--to be welcoming. At Covenant, "welcoming and affirming" is often code for embracing our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) sisters and brothers. This Sunday, we will consider how we might welcome persons of various physical and mental abilities. Our discussion will interweave theology, practical considerations, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act..

Bible Discussion - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Jeff Nobles. Text: Luke 10:38-42.

Parents Forum - Parents Forum meets every third Sunday of the month during education hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. This month, we will not have Parents Forum on July 18. It will resume on the third Sunday, August 15.

Calendar

Sunday 7/18	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour
		Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Theology Book Group
Monday 7/19-7/23	9:00 a.m.	Camp Community
Tuesday 7/20	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 7/21	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Friday 7/23-7/25	7:00 p.m.	Camp Allen Camp for Moms
Sunday 7/25	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour
		Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

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 order of worship 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

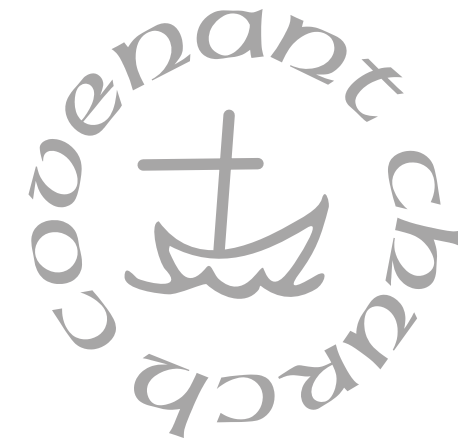
Organist

Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Baik

Office Administrator



A Service of Worship for Sunday 18 July 2010

*The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral,
begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude Assez lent (Vingt-Quatre Pièces)	André Fleury	Unison Confession War and peace start in the hearts of individuals... Maybe we come home from work and we just want some peace; but at home all hell is breaking loose for one reason or another, and so we start yelling at people. What is our motivation?	+ Doxology <i>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.</i>
Call to Worship			
*+ Opening Hymn 295 “O God of Love, O God of Peace”	Du meiner Seelen		+ Affirmation of Faith
+ Opening Prayer God of this sacramental planet, poet of the language this universe speaks, resident not only of the out-there for all of us, but the in-here of each of us, where can we be where you are not? Who can we be with that you are not? Hear what our hearts ache to whisper, speak, scream to you, then let it echo in us until we hear your answer in it, until we sense that it is your presence that signals us, in the silence between our heartbeats, to move on with you to depths beneath our grief. Amen.		We want some happiness and ease and peace, but what we do is get everyone else worked up too. This is a familiar scenario... We’re just driving along and someone cuts in front of us and then what? Well, we don’t like it, so we roll down the window and scream at them. War begins when we harden our hearts, and we harden them easily...	At the edges of our borders you wait, and at our territorial lines you linger, because the place where we touch beyond our boundaries is where you take your delight. And when we learn to read the landscape of our fears, and when we come to know the terrain of every sorrow, then will we turn our fences into bridges and our borders into paths of peace.
Scripture Lesson	Matthew 26:47-52	Words of Assurance Music Concerto in D Andante Stamitz	+ Closing Hymn 450 “O Day of Peace” Jerusalem
These are our sacred stories. Thanks be to God.		+ Hymn 206 “O Hear Our Cry, O Lord” Vineyard Haven	Words of Dismissal Postlude Trio in A Minor Josef Rheinberger
A Time for Children		Invitation Pastoral Prayer	Worship The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte is Ruben Milano . The worship leader is Joyce Courtois . The Call to Worship is “Memorial Day Prayer” from <i>Morning Watch</i> by Barbara Pescan. The Opening Prayer is adapted from <i>My Heart in My Mouth: Prayers for Our Lives</i> by Ted Loder. The Unison Confession is from <i>Practicing Peace in Times of War</i> by Pema Chödrön.. Josh Cowan is the violist. The Prayer of Dedication is by Jeremy Rutledge . The Affirmation of Faith from <i>Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas</i> by Jan Richardson. The liturgical movement is led by Susan Wegner .
*+ Response: <i>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.</i>	Personent Hodie	Offering Offertory: First Prelude in F Major Edward Bairstow	
Call to Confession		+ Prayer of Dedication If there is to be peace may it begin with us in the present moment.	
Silent Confession		If there is to be peace may we practice it in the here and now. If there is to be peace may we pray for it in the choices we make today.	Inquirers Class Starts Today A session of classes for visitors and those considering membership in Covenant begins on Sunday, July 18 at the education hour. The seven weekly sessions will cover such topics as liberal Christianity, Baptist principles and history, and the history of Covenant as well as information about the structure and functioning of the church through the Church Council, the Diaconate, and the committees. Presenters include the ministers, committee chairs, and other members of the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about the church and its people, join Joe Milano at Meeks House on Sundays beginning July 18 through August 29.

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

+ *Please stand if you are able*