

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 - This Sunday, Jeremy will lead the first of a two-part viewing and discussion of Bill Moyers' interview with renowned Buddhist teacher Pema Chödrön. Chödrön writes, "It isn't the things that happen to us in our lives that cause us to suffer, it's how we relate to the things that happen to us that causes us to suffer." Join us as we consider the wisdom of Pema Chödrön, including her thoughts on how to develop compassion and understanding in spite of, or perhaps even taught by, the suffering within and around us.

Bible Discussion - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Tim Wegner. Text: Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19.

Parents Forum - Parents Forum meets every third Sunday of the month during education hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. The next meeting will take place on August 15.

Calendar

Sunday 8/15	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour Inquirers Class Parents Forum
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Literary Book Group <i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett
Tuesday 8/17	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 8/18	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Thursday 8/19	6:00 p.m.	Montrose Grace Place Dinner
Saturday 8/21	9:00 a.m.	Trip to Schlitterbahn in Galveston
Sunday 8/22	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Inquirers Class In Session

A session of classes for visitors and those considering membership in Covenant takes place during 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 in Meeks House at 9 a.m. on Sundays through August 29.

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 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

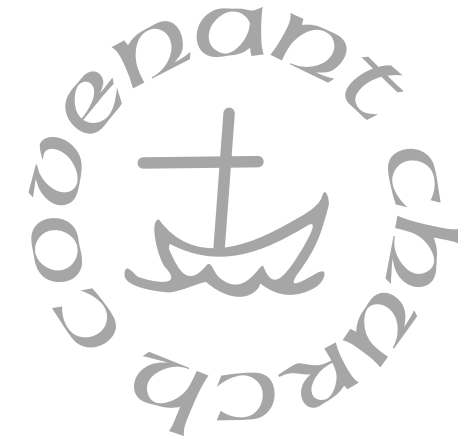
Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Baik

Office Administrator

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830



A Service of Worship for Sunday 15 August 2010

*The road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the road has gone,
And I must follow if I can,
Pursuing it with weary feet,
Until it joins some larger way,
Where many paths and errands meet.
And whither then,
I cannot say.*

J.R.R. Tolkien, from *The Lord of the Rings*

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude
“Arioso”
Austin Lovelace

Unison Confession

+ Affirmation of Faith

From the midst of our real lives with their very real problems, we come to seek courage and strength from the presence of God and the support of one another.

We have important work. But none of us can do this work alone. As much as we need constructive self-examination and critical dialogue, we need each other.

*+ Opening Hymn 281
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
Cwm Rhondda

As persons who love imperfectly and are loved imperfectly, we come to be renewed by the perfect love of God, proclaimed in this community of love and faith.

We may never come to think alike or to act alike. I hope not. But by participating in each other’s faith journeys, by reaching out to each other and sharing in the struggles to name and claim our theologies, we can strengthen our public prophetic voice and deepen our sense of community and our commitment to a shared faith tradition.

+ Opening Prayer
**O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.**

As persons who never fully live up their high calling in Jesus Christ, we come to be encouraged to do our best for one more week.

May it be so.

**Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think
I am following Your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe
that the desire to please You
does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
in all that I am doing.**

**Let us worship, with hearts open to the love of God,
with hands outstretched to one another, and with whole
selves willing to accept the cost and joy of being Christ’s
disciples. Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn 343
“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”
Beecher

Words of Assurance
Music
Sonata BWV1031
Siciliana
J.S. Bach

Unison Benediction
**The way is long,
we will go together,
The way is difficult,
we will help each other.
The way is joyful,
we will share it.
The way is open before us,
we will go:
with the love of God,
the grace of the Christ,
and the communion of God’s spirit. Amen.**

**I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust You always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
for You are ever with me,
and You will never leave me
to make my journey alone.**

Proclamation: Planted by the Water
+ Hymn 280
“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”
Amazing Grace

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory:
Sonata BWV1031
Allegro moderato
J.S. Bach

Postlude
“Trumpet Tune in D Major”
David Johnson

Scripture Lesson
Jeremiah 17:7-10a

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*

+ Prayer of Dedication

**Thou my source
and my returning,
my beginning
and welcome home,
bless the path
on which I journey;
be the way
that leads me on.**

+ 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.*

+ *Please stand if you are able*

Worship

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service.
The worship leaders are **Jeremy Rutledge** and **Alexa Daggett**.
The Time for Children is led by **David Ramsey**.
The Call to Worship is “The Journey” by David Whyte in *River Flow: New and Selected Poems 1984-2007*.
The Opening Prayer is from *Thoughts in Solitude* by Thomas Merton.
The Unison Confession is from *Bread for the Journey*, edited by Ruth Duck.
The Covenant Trio is comprised of **Pam Vincent** - flute; **Susan Wegner** - cello; **Carl McAliley** - keyboard.
The Prayer of Dedication is from *In Wisdom’s Path: Discovering the Sacred in Every Season* by Jan Richardson.
The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the 21st Century* by Paul Rasor.
The Unison Benediction is from *Touch Holiness* by Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi.