

Education Hour

Children's Education:

Pre-K - 2nd Grade- We are studying stories from the Bible through creative activities and crafts using The Season's of the Spirit curriculum. This class will meet in the Library (to the left 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 right of the Workroom.)

Youth Education: We will start the year off with the problem of suffering by exploring "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish and the Biblical book of Job. The class will meet on the third floor of the Meeks House (across Caroline Street from the church).

Adult Education:

Bible Discussion: In the Meeks House, Rick Caswell will lead Bible Discussion. The focus scripture is Mark 10:2-16.

In The Sanctuary: This Sunday we welcome Chris Copeland, the Minister for Leadership Formation of the Alliance of Baptists. Chris has served as pastor, youth minister, church consultant, retreat leader, denominational representative, and spiritual director. During the education hour, Chris will help us know what is happening with the Alliance and invite conversation about Covenant, the Alliance, and our liberal religious partnership.

Inquirers Class - For those who want to develop a deeper understanding of Covenant's philosophy, history and governance, we offer an eight-week class in the Meeks House.

Parent's Forum - We will have a Parent's Forum meeting every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. The next meeting is October 18th.

Calendar

Sunday 10/4	8:15 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education / Inquirers Class
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday 10/6	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 10/7	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Thursday 10/8	5:00 p.m.	Family Night at Children's Museum
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 10/10	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Sunday 10/11	8:15 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education / Inquirers Class
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.	Covenant Book Discussion Group

Helpful Information

Childcare Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning 8:45 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 There is a weekly Newsletter available online at www.covenanthouston.org. To have this Newsletter e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail request to 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

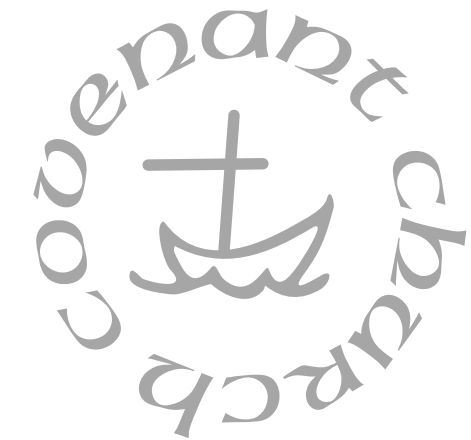
Laura Mayo
Associate Minister

Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

Pat Long
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo
Office Administrator



*A Service of Worship
for Sunday
4 October 09*

*Respect, I think, always implies imagination—
the ability to see one another,
across our inevitable differences,
as living souls.*

Wendell Berry

please enter for worship in silence

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

* Prelude Hans Uwe Hielscher
Allemande (from “Mosaics, Opus 47”)

Time of Reflection

+ Affirmation of Faith

Choral Introit (8:15) Trinity
“God Is One, Unique and Holy”

Meditation: World, Communion

**There is one breath.
There is one life.
There is one Earth.
There is one chance.
All is holy, so holy.
All is sacred, so sacred.
All is one.**

Call to Worship

+ Hymn 436

Whitfield

*+ Processional Hymn 386: Azmon
“O For A World”

“We Are Your People”
(Verses 1, 2, 3)

Prayer

+ Recessional Hymn

Finlandia

+ Opening Sentences

“This Is My Song”

**We come together now to worship.
Spirit calls to spirit.
Hand reaches out to hand.
Heart joins with heart.
Voice lifts with voice a song of praise.
Come, let us worship together.**

Offering

Offertory: Alexandre Guilmant
Communion, Op. 15, No. 1

This is my song, O God of all the nations. A song of peace for lands afar and mine; This is my home, the country where my heart is; Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

+ Prayer of Dedication

The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind us to each other. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.

My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine; But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, And skies are everywhere as blue as mine; O hear my song, O God of all the nations, A song of peace for their land and for mine.

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 19
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, For alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, And our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.

This is my prayer, O God of all earth’s nations, Your kingdom come on earth, your will be done: Let Christ be lifted up ‘til all shall serve him. And hearts united learn to live as one: O hear my prayer, O God of all the nations. Myself I give you, let your will be done.

A Time for Children

*+ Response: Au Claire de la Lune

*Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I’m gentle too,
Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

Call to Confession

+ Doxology

Old Hundredth

Silent Confession

*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.*

Choral Benediction (8:15) Trinity
“God is Oneness by Communion”

Unison Confession

We seek forgiveness for our wrong view that the lives we live are about ourselves alone.

Postlude Fanfare William Mathias

Words of Assurance

Invitation to the Table

Music (8:15) David Wehr
“Now Alien Tongues”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Now alien tongues repeat thy holy name half the world away, and all hands lift the cup, and all hands lift the bread, and all hands lift the soul this holy day. Cleanse thou our hearts from pride of race. This hour we kneel as one. Enfold us all in boundless love. Now all the world repeat thy holy name as we partake.

Communion Hymn 436

Whitfield

“We Are Your People”
(Verses 4, 5)

(11:00) Cesar Franck
“Panis Angelicus”

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.

Bread of heaven, in partaking of this wondrous feast, let us receive, as your people, your Holy Spirit, removing from us our fears and enlarging our limits.

Our communion elements include both wine and water. Gluten-free bread is also available.

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 **Caroline Witten**.

This morning we are pleased to welcome **Rev. Christopher T. Copeland**, Minister for Leadership Formation of the Alliance of Baptists.

The banner was made by **Nancy Henry**.

The Worship Leaders are **Mary Lee Burrus** and **Virginia Wells**.

The Call to Worship is from *Your Word is Near* by Huub Oosterhuis.

The Opening Sentences are from Calvin Dame in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The Unison Confession is by **Jeremy Rutledge**.

Jim Avera and **Josh Cowan** sing the duet at the later service.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Mark Morrison-Reed in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Affirmation of Faith is a chant composed by Jan Novotka and used at the Sisters of Earth conference in August 2002.

* Ushers will seat latecomers

+ Please stand if you are able

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