

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 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 10:35-45.

In The Sanctuary: Debbie Canales will reveal some interesting thoughts about the history of Labyrinth and also its value as a contemplative and personal worship experience. Jim Avera will outline the plan for the renovation of our own Labyrinth.

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.

Parents Forum - We will have a Parents Forum meeting every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. Join us today, October 18, as we share ideas about the holidays. Get tips for dealing with Halloween candy, travel, and family events.

Calendar

Sunday 10/18	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
	12:15 p.m.	Parents Forum
Tuesday 10/20	6:00 p.m.	Theology Book Group
	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 10/21	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Thursday 10/22	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday 10/23	7:30 p.m.	Taize Prayer @ Villa de Matel Chapel
Saturday 10/24	9:00 a.m.	Faith Communities & Social Transformation @ Covenant Lutheran
	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	5:00 p.m.	Gardening Supper

Helpful Information

Childcare Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 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

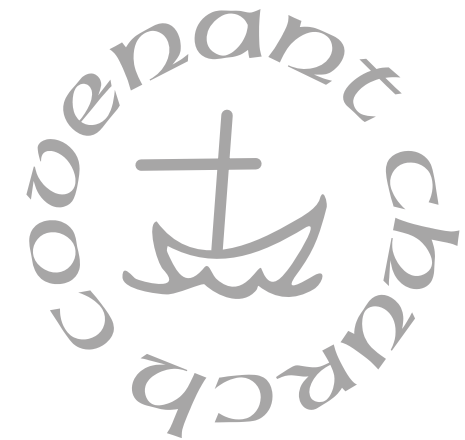
Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo

Office Administrator

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830



A Service of Worship for Sunday 18 October 09

The roots of ultimate religious insights are found not on the level of discursive thinking, but on the level of wonder and radical amazement, in the depth of awe, in our sensitivity to the mystery, in our awareness of the ineffable. . . It is not from our experience but from our inability to experience what is given. . . that God is derived.

Abraham Joshua Heschel

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude L.J.A. Lefébure-Wély
Andante, “Choeur de voix humaines”

Choral Introit (11:00) Dix
“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Call to Worship

*+ Processional Hymn 268: Holy Manna
“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

+ Opening Prayer

**All that quickens sympathetic imaginings,
all that awakens sensitivity to others’ feelings,
all that strengthens courage,
all that adds to the love of living—
belongs to us.
May our spirits be quickened and enriched, strengthened
and enhanced by our being here together.**

Scripture Lesson: Job 38:1-18
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

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

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Each of us tells ourselves
some kind of story
about who we are
and what our life is about...**

**Some stories weave the fragments
of our experience into a greater whole,
in a way that reveals
relationship and connection.
Other stories lock us into the fragments,
leaving us nowhere to turn...**

**A new story can begin.
We will work to make it
a story of faith.**

Words of Assurance

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

Music (8:15) Gabriel Fauré
“Romance”

(11:00) Christoph Willibald von Gluck
“De Profundis”

*Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord. Hear my cry. Let
your ears be attentive to my pleas. God alone will set the people
free from all their sins.*

Time of Reflection

Stewardship Reflection

+ Hymn 343 Beecher
“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”
(sing verse 1)

Stewardship Reflection

Hymn 343 Beecher
“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”
(sing verse 2)

Stewardship Reflection

Hymn 343 Beecher
“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”
(sing verses 3 & 4)

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Léon Boëllmann
Offertory: Toccata (Suite Gothique)

+ Prayer of Dedication

**May we be reminded here of our highest aspirations,
and inspired to bring our gifts of love and service
to the altar of humanity.
May we know once again that we are not isolated beings
but connected,
in mystery and miracle,
to the universe,
to this community
and to each other.**

+ 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

+ Affirmation of Faith

**Covenant Affirms:
The loving presence of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, and
the revealed Spirit throughout the ages.
The sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the
value of all life in the universe.
Truth as an ongoing process, and the necessity to be explorers in
the continuing discovery of faith and understanding.
The practice of inclusivity in worship and in all other aspects of
our corporate life.
The importance of passing on our knowledge and an
understanding of traditions.**

+ Recessional Hymn 375 Toulon
“Lord of All Good”

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00) Schumann
“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Postlude William Hine
Flute Piece



Pledged dollars goal is \$340,000.

Pledged hours goal is 450.



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**.

The Worship Leaders are **Eric Avera** and **Jack Daggett**.

The Call to Worship is “Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks” by Jane Kenyon.

The Opening Prayer is from George Brooks in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience* by Sharon Salzberg.

Susan Wegner is the cellist at the earlier service.

The Stewardship Reflections are offered by **Nancy Preston**, **Jim Avera** and **Ashley Kress**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Affirmation of Faith is the Covenant Mission Statement.