

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 a discussion of Mark 10:46-52.

In The Sanctuary: A sermon dialogue with Jeremy.

Parents Forum - We will have a Parents Forum meeting every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House.

Calendar

Sunday 10/25	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.	Children & Youth Assemble Bags for Hungry People
Tuesday 10/27	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 10/28	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	7:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Thursday 10/29	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 10/31	9:30 a.m.	Special Choir Rehearsal

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

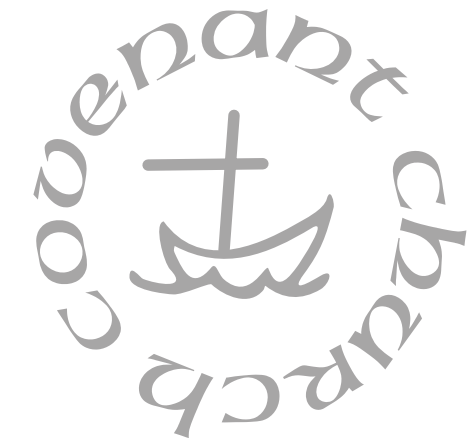
Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo

Office Administrator

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830



*A Service of Worship
for Sunday
25 October 09*

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

Mary Oliver

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude Maria Theresia von Paradis
Sicilienne

Choral Introit (11:00) Sursum Corda (Smith)
“You Are Before Me, Lord”

Call to Worship

*+ Processional Hymn 261: O Quanta Qualia
“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

Dedication of Pilar Camille Retamales (11:00)

Leader: Anne and Jaime, in bringing Pilar to be blessed, you acknowledge that she is a gift entrusted to your care. In that spirit, do you commit yourselves to parent this child with compassion, respect, patience and love and accept her for who she is and who she will become?

Relying on God’s grace, do you promise to raise this child within the love and support of the church, to nurture this child spiritually, and to allow her the freedom to learn and grow?

Do you promise to teach Pilar to be concerned for family, community, and world and to act with compassion toward all as Jesus did?

Parents: We do. We thankfully receive Pilar as a gift from God. With humility and hope we dedicate ourselves to love and care for her.

Leader: I ask you, Pilar’s grandparents, will you promise to love, support and care for this child?

Family: We will.

Leader: I ask you, Pilar’s godmother, will you promise to love, support, and care for this child?

Godmother: I will.

Leader: Do you, the family that is Covenant Church, receive Pilar into your love and care; do you join her parents, Anne and Jaime, in sharing the responsibility to nurture her character and spirit; do you offer the sheltering arms of this fellowship to these parents and this child?

Congregation: **We rejoice in God’s blessing of Pilar. We seek God’s grace to be a community to your family. We will support you and Pilar, and pray that through our love she may come to know God’s love.**

Song (11:00) Mark A. Stupp
“The Lamb”

Opening Prayer

**O God of our restless hearts’ desiring,
whom we both fear and love,
believe and doubt,
honor and betray,
teach us by the contradictions
of our own nature
the meaning and purpose
that are striving to find room
in our lives.**

Scripture Lesson: Job 42:1-6
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

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

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

**We confess
that we are drawn to
the places that scare us.
Yet we confess
that we pause along the way
afraid to face our fears
or experience the changes
that may, in fact,
set us free.**

Words of Assurance

Music (8:15) Robert Muczynski

“Three Preludes” Op. 18

(11:00) Ron Nelson

“Cause Us, O Lord”

Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace, and to awaken to renewed life and strength. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Help us to order our lives by thy counsel [sic], lead us in the paths of righteousness. Be thou a shield about us, protect us. Save our world from sorrow, from hate, and from war. Curb thou within us the will to do evil. Shelter us beneath the shadow of thy wings. Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace, and to awaken to renewed life and strength. Amen.

Proclamation: Our Wildest Dreams

Hymn 211 Lobt Gott in seinem Heiligtum

“Lord, You Have Been Our Dwelling Place”

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Call to Stewardship

Offering

Offertory: J. S. Bach

Fugue in G Major, BWV 576

+ Prayer of Dedication

**May the little that we know, O God,
become enough to guide us,
while we seek the truth
that no one knows
and no one lives without.**

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ 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.*

+ Affirmation of Faith

**This is what you should do: Love the earth and sun and animals,
despise riches, give alms to everyone who asks,
stand up for the stupid and crazy,
devote your income and labour to others, hate tyrants,
argue not concerning God,
have patience and indulgence toward the people,
re-examine all you have been told in school or church
or any book,
dismiss what insults your very soul,
and your flesh shall become a great poem.**

+ Recessional Hymn 275 Sandon

“God of Our Life”

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00) Sursum Corda (Smith)

“Search Me, O God”

Postlude Denis Bédard

Plein jeu (Suite du premier ton)



**Pledged dollars goal is \$340,000.
Currently raised: \$79,160**

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 **Ruben Milano**.

The Call to Worship is from *The Places that Scare You: A Guide to Fearlessness in Difficult Times* by Pema Chödrön.

The song at the later service is sung by **Eric Avera**.

The Opening Prayer and the Prayer of Dedication are from *The Language of the Heart* by Powell Davies.

The Time for Children is led by The Covenant Street Symphony.

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

The music for unaccompanied flute at the earlier service is played by **Pam Vincent**.

The Call to Stewardship is given by **Sharron Sanborn**.

The Affirmation of Faith is from the Preface to the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman.