

## Worship

The Worship Leaders are **Eric Avera** and **Ruben Milano**.

The Call to Worship is “Watching Sandhill Cranes,” from *The Way It Is* by William Stafford.

The Opening Sentences are a poem of Birago Diop, reprinted in *Life Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The bass-baritone soloist, **Ryan McKinny**, is a Covenant member and sings with the Houston Grand Opera. The soprano soloist is **Casey Gambill**. Casey is a choir teacher at Goodson Middle School, is a member of Covenant and sings regularly with Covenant Singers.

The Covenant Singers are *Soprano*: **Jeannette Dixon, Casey Gambill, Pat Long, Erica Lorenz, Nancy Preston, Rebecca Spears** *Alto*: **Beth Braun, Pat Burgess, Joyce Courtois, Jeannie Gambill, Lois Guehring, Sally Ridgway** *Tenor*: **Eric Avera, Alan Burns, Robert Carter, Josh Cowan, Jay Hooker, Joe Milano** *Bass*: **Jim Avera, Chuck Fleming, Clinton Gambill, Benny Hughes, Frank Shonka, Tim Wegner**.

The Unison Confession is adapted from a prayer of E. Lee Phillips from *For the Living of These Days*, edited by C. Michael Hawn.

The Prayer of Dedication is from an unknown source.

The Affirmation of Faith is from “Healing” in *What Are People For?* by Wendell Berry.

The Unison Benediction is adapted from *In Memoriam* by Edward Searl.

## 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:** Jeff Nobles will lead a discussion of Ruth 1:1-18.

**In The Sanctuary:** Ken Ramsey discusses loneliness as part of the human experience. Henri J.M. Nouwen wrote of loneliness as both a wound and as something of a gift. If we were discuss objectively our experiences with and/or observations about loneliness, what common themes, if any, would emerge?

**Parents Forum** - We will have a Parents Forum meeting every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura’s office in Meeks House. We will gather on November 15th to discuss All Saints/All Souls - death and grief. Come ready to share your families experiences with these topics and books, etc that have been helpful to your family.



Pledged dollars goal is \$340,000.  
Currently raised: \$183,016.

Pledged hours goal is 450.  
Currently raised: 2,910 hours.



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 McAilely  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo  
Office Administrator

Covenant Church  
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*There is a Mysterious Power that animates every living thing, a Mysterious Power that sustains what we call Life. We do not know where we come from when we are born. We do not know where we go when we die. But we do know the life we live between the two eternities of being born and having to die. Between these two eternities is our world – our life.*

*Some of us call the Source of Life, this Mysterious Power, God. Some of us prefer another name: Eternal Being, or Creative Force, or Spirit of Life, or perhaps simply, Love. Some of us do not know what to call this Mysterious Power, for all names seem somehow inadequate.*

*Yet we feel this Mysterious Power at the center of our unique beings. We experience it through the changes of our individual lives. We see and sense it at work in the life and in the changes of every other living thing.*

*Like a flame passing from candle to candle, this Mysterious Power passes from being to being and from generation to generation. This Mysterious Power is the Unity of the whole of creation – past, present, and future.*

*There is a Mysterious Power that animates every living thing, a Mysterious Power that sustains Life through the unending cycle of the generations.*

*In honor of this Mysterious Power we light a candle.*

from a meditation by Edward Searl

*please enter for worship in silence*

## A Service of Worship for 01 Nov 2009

### All Saints/All Souls Sunday

*We seek  
to live this day  
in gratitude  
for all who have gone before.*

#### TIME OF SILENCE

*You are invited to light a candle now and during the prelude  
in remembrance of the souls and saints you have known.  
Candles may also be lit at the conclusion of the service.*

Prelude "Prélude Modal" Jean Langlais

Call to Worship

\*+ Opening Hymn 526 "For All the Saints" (verses 1-3) Sine nomine

+ Opening Sentences

Listen more often  
To things than to beings;  
The fire's voice is heard,  
Hear the voice of water.  
Hear in the wind  
The bush sob:  
It is the ancestors' breath.

**Those who have died have never left,  
They are in the brightening shadow  
And in the thickening shadow;  
The dead are not under the earth,  
They are in the rustling tree,  
They are in the groaning woods,  
They are in the flowing water,  
They are in the still water,  
They are in the hut, they are in the crowd:  
The dead are not dead.**

Listen more often  
To things than to beings;  
The fire's voice is heard,  
Hear the voice of water.  
Hear in the wind  
The bush sob:  
It is the ancestors' breath,  
The breath of dead ancestors  
Who have not left,  
Who are not under the earth,  
Who are not dead.  
Those who have died have never left,  
They are in the woman's breast,  
They are in the wailing child  
And in the kindling firebrand.

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

**The dead are not under the earth,  
They are in the fire dying down,  
They are in the moaning rock,  
They are in the crying grass,  
They are in the forest, they are in the home:  
The dead are not dead.**

Requiem Gabriel Fauré

I *Grant rest eternal and let light perpetual shine upon them. There shall be singing to you, O God, in Zion, and prayer shall go up to you in Jerusalem. Hear our prayer, O God. Unto you shall all come at last. God have mercy on us, Christ, have mercy on us.*

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11  
These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

\*+ Response: Jesus Loves Me  
*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.*

Requiem Gabriel Fauré

II *O Lord Jesus Christ, king of glory, deliver the souls of the departed from everlasting pain and from the unfathomed depths, from the mouth of the lion; save them from utter darkness. To you, O God, we offer our sacrifice, to you our praise and prayer for all the souls this day we hold in memory. Let them pass from death to eternity as you promised to Abraham and to his descendants. Amen.*  
III *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you. Hosanna in the highest.*

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 40:12-31  
These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**God, make us more like the good that was in them,  
Wiser through their gifts to us,  
Richer through their belief in us,  
Stronger through their faith in us,  
That as long as we live  
Their good influence will live through us,  
As does the redeeming power of the Christ. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hymn 529 "Lord of the Living" Christe sanctorum

Prayer of Remembrance

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

Offering Offertory: "Elegy" G. T. Thalben-Ball

+ Prayer of Dedication  
**May we see life clearly, Gracious God.  
May we move towards death courageously.  
May we live and die with the awareness that:  
It is out of your great love that we have come, and  
It is into your unending love that we shall return.**

Requiem

IV *Blessed Jesus, son of God, grant eternal rest to the departed.*  
V *Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, grant eternal rest to the departed. Light eternal, shine upon all your saints, now and forevermore, for you are good. Grant rest eternal.*

#### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Invitation to Remembrance

Naming Our Saints  
*(After the striking of the bowl, please stand and name those you remember.)*

+ Affirmation of Faith

**We clasp the hands of those that go before us,  
And the hands of those who come after us.  
We enter the little circle of each other's arms  
And the larger circle of lovers,  
whose hands are joined in a dance,  
And the larger circle of all creatures,  
Passing in and out of life,  
who move also in a dance,  
to a music so subtle and vast  
that no ear hears it  
Except in fragments.**

Requiem

VI *Free us all from the fear of death and from the day of judgment, when heaven and earth shall be moved, when you shall come to judge the whole world. I tremble in dread of the day of trouble, of anger and bitter sorrow. Grant, O God, eternal rest and perpetual light to shine on all.*  
VII *Let all the departed be received by angels in paradise. May all the blessed martyrs receive you and bring you to the holy city Jerusalem. May the choir of angels receive you and with Lazarus the beggar, may you eternally have rest.*

Unison Benediction

**Spirit of Life be with us  
Giving us peace  
And assurance in the things that never die –  
Those things that pass from person to person  
through the generations –  
Especially love.  
In the spirit of Love we have gathered.  
In the spirit of Love we depart.**

Postlude "Placare Christe Servulus" Marcel Dupré

+ Please stand if you are able