

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 started 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:

In The Sanctuary: This week will begin a three week series on the life of David. This week we will focus on 2 Samuel 6:12-22. We will think about what it is like to have everything going for us and see what is like for David to be at the height of success. These weeks will require participation and thoughtful reflection on how the life of a character from the Bible relates to our lives.

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.

Calendar

Sunday 11/8	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday 11/10	12:15 p.m.	All Church Committee Meetings
	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 11/11	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	5:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Reconstruction - Drawing the Labyrinth
Thursday 11/12	7:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday 11/13-11/14		Children's Retreat
Saturday 11/14	9:00 a.m.	Labyrinth Reconstruction - New Sand
	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday



Pledged dollars goal is \$340,000.

Currently raised: \$241,996.

Pledged hours goal is 450.

Currently raised: 3,382 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 McAliley

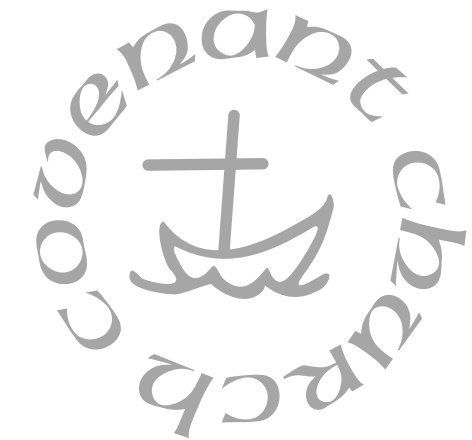
Organist

Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo

Office Administrator



A Service of Worship for Sunday 08 November 09

*What is the quality of your service, the depth of your love?
What price are you willing to pay?
What burden are you willing to bear?
Be honest about it.*

Cornel West

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

please enter for worship in silence

- * Prelude William Selby
Allegro and Andante
- Choral Introit (11:00) Holy Manna
“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”
- Call to Worship
- *+ Processional Hymn 192: Michael
“God, Our Help and Constant Refuge”
- + Opening Sentences

To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars, before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, or a grain of sand.

To worship is to be silent, receptive, before a tree astir with the wind, or the passing shadow of a cloud.

To worship is to work with dedication and with skill; it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music.

To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the earth; it is to listen through a storm to the still small voice within.

Worship is a loneliness seeking communion; it is a thirsty land crying out for rain.

Worship is a kindred fire within our hearts; it moves through deeds of kindness and through acts of love.

Worship is the mystery within us reaching out to the mystery beyond.

It is an inarticulate silence yearning to speak; it is the window of the moment open to the sky of the eternal.

Welcoming New Members

Litany of Welcoming:

Leader: Believing that it is in response to the call of God that we have come to this place, we publicly acknowledge the teachings of Jesus as our pattern for life and all of life’s relationships.

Community: Alan, Cheryl and Bruce, David and Anneliese, Ron, Mendy, and Mary Carroll, we welcome you into this community of faith. Your presence among us has already been a source of blessing and joy.

All: We now enter into covenant with one another in the spirit of Christ to live together in love and to care for one another and for our neighbors as God cares for each one of us.

Leader: In the understanding that we are called to a shared life, will each of you express your covenant with us?

New Members: I covenant with you to share the joys and sorrows and to bear the burdens of this community. I will pray sensitively for you, affirming in the spirit of Christ that we are our neighbor’s keeper.

Community: Together with you, and with the help of God, we intend by the corporate sharing of our lives to build a witness of faith, love, understanding, and strength in the world.

All: Realizing that it was to the world of human need that Jesus came, and it was for the world of people that he gave himself, and that it is in the world that we find ourselves called to be his servants, we dedicate our lives to ministry in the world, ever alert to the voice of human need wherever it may be found.

Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:1-9
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

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

- A Time for Children
- *+ Response 300: Personent Hodie
- This is the love come to light, now is fear put to flight. God defeats darkest night, giving for our sorrows hope of new tomorrows. Let us sing, sing, sing dance and spring, spring, spring, Christ is here. Ever near! Gloria in excelsis.*
- Call to Confession
- Silent Confession
- Unison Confession

**May peace surround me as I enter this day.
May peace fill my breath and my life,
helping me to set aside fear and anger,
helping me to feel everyday an at-oneness.
May peace be with those I love,
with my neighbors, with the world.**

Words of Assurance

- Music (8:15) Michael Horvit
“You Shall Love the Lord Your God”
- (11:00) Michael Horvit
“You Shall Love the Lord Your God”

You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, with all your strength, with all your being. Set these words, which I command you this day, upon your heart. Teach them faithfully to your children; speak of them in your home and on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up. Bind them as a sign upon your hand; let them be a symbol before your eyes; inscribe them on the door posts of your house, and on your gates. Be mindful of all My Mitzvot [good deeds] and do them: so shall you conse crate yourselves to your God. I, the Lord, am your God who led you out of Egypt to be your God; I, the Lord, am your God.

Time of Reflection

Proclamation: The Everybody Club

- Hymn 405 Sharpthorne
“What Does the Lord Require”

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

- Offering Herman Berlinski
Offertory: “Air”

+ Prayer of Dedication

**May unity and peace abide within us.
May wholeness and joy touch our hearts.
May kindness and compassion fill our universe
and reverence fill our days.
May we see the light that shines in all.**

- + 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 Leoni
What finally counts is not what biblical texts or church doctrines tell us we *may* believe, but what humanity, reason, justice, and love tell us we *ought* to believe.
- + Recessional Hymn 274 Leoni
“O God of Earth and Space”
- Words of Dismissal
- Choral Benediction (11:00) Holy Manna
“As Each Far Horizon Beckons”
- Postlude William Selby
“Jig”

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 **Virginia Wells**.

The Worship Leaders are **John Preston** and **Ruben Milano**.

The Call to Worship is from William Schulz in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Opening Sentences are from Jacob Trapp in *Singing the Living Tradition*.

The new members we welcome today are:

Alan Burns, who is a friend of Josh Cowan, was raised in a more traditional Baptist church. Alan is glad to have found a Baptist church that is a fit for him at this point in his journey.

Cheryl and Bruce Hastings – Covenant welcomes Cheryl and Bruce who have come to us from First Unitarian Universalist Church. They met while working in the oil and gas industry and are currently interested in many of the performing arts and liberal political causes.

David Heller and Anneliese Davis come from diverse religious backgrounds and are delighted to have found a church in which to worship together. They live nearby in the Heights and have already begun to fit into the Covenant family.

Ron Sandburg - We are glad he has gone from just being Denny and Kay Duncan’s neighbor to being a member of Covenant. He works in the environmental field and brings so many wonderful questions and much thoughtfulness to our church family.

Mendy Smith, who also came to us through her friendship with Josh, will be such a gift to Covenant with her incredible musical abilities and quick wit! She has also promised to become our resident IT expert!

Mary Carroll Swearingen is joining us after leaving her long-time church because she did not feel it was responsible to travel so far from home to worship. She is a professional arborist and is very knowledgeable and passionate about many ecological and social justice issues. We look forward to her participation in our church.

Jennifer Moore will lead the Time for Children in the second service.

The Unison Confession is from *Awakening the Soul: A Book of Daily Devotions*, edited by John Morgan.

Jim Avera is the baritone soloist.

The oboe solo in the anthem is played by **Angie Parle**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Gary Kowalski in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Credo* by William Sloane Coffin.