

## 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 continue 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:** On November 22, Bible Study will join in the study of David in the sanctuary.

**In The Sanctuary:** This is our last week to look at the life of David in Adult Education. We will focus our attention on the significance and meaning of the names of the characters in the story of David. Join us.

**Parents Forum -** We will have a Parents Forum meeting every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. In December we will gather on the 6th (this is a first Sunday rather than a third as the third is Christmas week). Jeannie Gambill will teach us some kid-friendly Christmas songs. We will gather in the nursery for this session as the children are invited and welcome.

## Calendar

Sunday 11/22	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
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group Movie Night
Tuesday 11/24	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 11/25	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Thursday 11/26		Thanksgiving (Church office closed 11/26 & 11/27) No choir rehearsal.



Pledged dollars goal is \$340,000.  
Currently raised: \$263,546.

Pledged hours goal is 450.  
Currently raised: 3,483 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

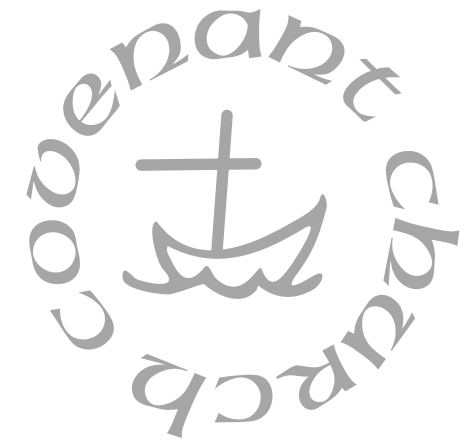
Laura Mayo  
Associate Minister

Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo  
Office Administrator



## *A Service of Worship for Sunday 22 November 09*

*Mother Spurgeon: "Oh, Charley, I have often prayed that you might be saved, but never that you should become a Baptist."*

*Spurgeon: "God has answered your prayers, Mother, with His usual bounty, and given you more than you asked."*

Charles Hadden Spurgeon

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude J. S. Bach  
Prelude in C Major -BWV 545

Choral Introit Sarum  
“Give Thanks for Life”

Call to Worship

\*+ Processional Hymn 132: Abbot’s Leigh  
“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

+ Opening Prayer

**Source of all being, we turn to You as did our people in ancient days.  
They beheld You in the heavens;  
they felt You in their hearts;  
they sought You in their lives.  
Now their quest is ours.  
Help us, O God, to see the wonder of being.  
Give us the courage to search for truth.  
Teach us the path to a better life.  
So shall we, by our lives and our labors,  
bring nearer to realization the great hope inherited from ages past,  
for a world transformed by liberty, justice, and peace.**

Presenting a Bible to Alexa Daggett (11:00)

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 6:25-33  
These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

\*+ Response: Personent Hodie  
*This is 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

**Holy God, you have called us to live in faith and freedom,  
but we live with tightness in our chest.  
You have called us to love in a new direction,  
but we cling to the path we know.  
You have called us to reach outward in love,  
but we draw inward for protection.**

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

**You have called us to live with abandon, in trust,  
but we live carefully, in fear.  
God, forgive us. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music (8:15) Vassar Miller/Tom Avinger  
“Covenant Hymn”

(11:00) William Mathias  
“As Truly As God Is Our Father”

*As truly as God is our Father, so just as truly is God our Mother. In our Father, God Almighty, we have our being; in our merciful Mother, we are remade and restored.  
Our fragmented lives are knit together, and by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace, to the Holy Spirit, we are made whole.  
It is I, the strength and goodness of Fatherhood;  
It is I, the wisdom of Motherhood.  
It is I, the light and grace of holy love,  
It is I, the Trinity, it is I, the Unity.  
I am the sovereign goodness in all things.  
It is I who teach you to love.  
It is I who am the reward of all true desiring.  
All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen.*

Time of Reflection

A Celebration of 400 years of Baptist Life

Hymn 421 Wareham  
“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Statement from the Church Council

Offering  
Offertory: J. S. Bach  
Fugue in C Major - BWV 545

+ Prayer of Dedication

**The Priesthood of the Believer  
the right of the individual  
is a valid insight.  
Except we miss the meaning of priesthood.  
We thought it meant that I could priest me!  
And it never meant that at all.  
What it means is  
I can’t make it without you.  
You priest me.**

+ Please stand if you are able

**I priest some of you.  
There is an exchange.  
We meet God in 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.*

+ Affirmation of Faith

**Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime;  
Therefore, we are saved by hope.  
Nothing true or beautiful or good  
makes complete sense in any immediate context of history.  
Therefore, we are saved by faith.  
Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;  
Therefore, we are saved by love.**

+ Recessional Hymn 420 Cwm Rhondda  
“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Words of Dismissal

Sung Benediction Sarum  
“Give Thanks for Life”  
*Lord, for our own, our living and our dead,  
Thanks for the love by which our lives are fed,  
A love not changed by time or death or dread:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude Sigfrid Karg-Elert  
“Now Thank We All Our God”

**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 Leader is **Kathleen Yeager**.  
The Call to Worship is The Alliance of Baptists Covenant.  
The Opening Prayer is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book* by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.  
**David Ramsey** leads the Time for Children.  
The Unison Confession is from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi.  
**Joyce Courtois** is the soloist at the earlier service.  
The Statement from the Church Council is given by **Jay Hooker**.  
The Prayer of Dedication is by Carlyle Marney.  
The Affirmation of Faith is by Reinhold Niebuhr.