

## 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:** Bible Discussion across the street at Meeks House.

**In The Sanctuary:** Nancy Henry will assist us with wreath-making. If you know you will attend, please email her at nhenry@rice.edu so that she knows how many wreaths to purchase. You may attend even without emailing.

**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 11/29	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 12/1	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 12/2	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Thursday 12/3	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 12/5	9:00 a.m.	Art as Prayer



Pledged dollars goal is \$340,000.  
Currently raised: \$304,136.

Pledged hours goal is 450.  
Currently raised: 3,784 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

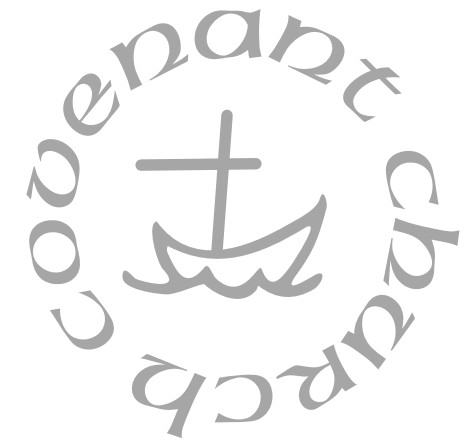
Laura Mayo  
Associate Minister

Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo  
Office Administrator



## *A Service of Worship for The First Sunday of Advent*

*There is a pearl in every season. Find it.  
Then give all you have to claim it.*

Joan Sauro

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude Denis Bédard  
 “Ouverture” (from “Triptyque”)

Choral Introit Veni Emmanuel  
 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Call to Worship

\*+ Processional Hymn 18: Sterling  
 “The Desert Shall Rejoice”

Lighting the First Advent Candle

Response: Cradle Song  
*Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,  
 Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
 Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.  
 One candle is lit for the joy of these days.*

Celebration of Baptism (11:00)

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

**There is no event so commonplace  
 but that the sacred is present within it,  
 always hiddenly, always leaving you room,  
 to recognize or not to recognize.**

**Today we come to listen to our lives.  
 To see them for the fathomless mysteries that they are.  
 In the boredom and pain of them no less  
 than in the excitement and gladness.**

**Let us touch, taste, smell our ways  
 to the holy and hidden heart of life  
 because in the last analysis  
 all moments are key moments  
 and life itself is grace.**

Words of Assurance

Deacons’ Group Ministry

Scripture Lesson: Luke 21:25-33  
 These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Music (8:15) J.S. Bach  
 Sonata No. 1 in G major, BWV 1027  
 Adagio

(11:00) Traditional/arr. M. Noia  
 “Down to the River to Pray”

Meditation: Found in Translation

Hymn 1 Stuttgart  
 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  
 (verses 1-3)

Invitation

Statement from the Church Council

Offering  
 Offertory: Léon Boellmann  
 “Verset de Procession sur l’Adoro Te”

+ Prayer of Dedication

**The season of Advent  
 means there is something on the horizon...  
 It is not possible to keep it from coming...  
 What is possible is not to see it.  
 Today we dedicate ourselves to  
 Stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry.  
 Ponder. Behold. Wonder.  
 We will wait.  
 Something is on the horizon.**

+ 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

**We affirm that within each of us lies the essence of our Creator.  
 We acknowledge the magnificent gift of choice,  
 the knowledge of good and evil  
 and the sea of gray between.  
 We dedicate our being, our little lives,  
 to bringing about the reign of God  
 dreamed of and shown to us in the Christ.**

**In each of us Advent begins.  
 In this season we are joyful in our expectation of it!**

+ Recessional Hymn 13 Bereden Väg För Herran  
 “Prepare the Way”

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00) Veni Emmanuel  
 “Come Thou Day-Spring”

Postlude Eric Thiman  
 “Saraband on a Ground”

### 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 and Prayer of Dedication are from *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas* by Jan Richardson.  
**David and Janice Ramsey** light the first candle of Advent at the 8:15 service. **Casey Gambill** and **Tim Okabayashi** light the first candle of Advent at the 11:00 service.  
**Miller Kress** is being baptized today.  
 The Unison Confession is adapted from *Listening to Your Life* by Frederick Buechner.  
 The Deacons’ Group Ministry reports are given by **David Ramsey** (8:15) and **Ashley Kress** (11:00).  
**Mendy Smith** plays the viola at the earlier service.  
 The Statement from the Church Council is given by **Sharron Sanborn**.  
 The Affirmation of Faith is by **John Pirtle**.

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

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