

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: In the Meeks House, Jeff Nobles will lead Bible Study. The focus scripture is Luke 3:1-6.

In The Sanctuary: The MAGI in Religion and Art by Ken Vincent - Do you know why Zoroastrian priests are on your Christmas cards? The MAGI were priests of the only other religion in the ancient worlds to worship one God and their prophet, Zoroaster, who predicted the coming of future saviors "from the nations." The religion of the MAGI was the dominant religion in the ancient world's other superpower, the Parthian Persian Empire. They were "next door" to Palestine and they spoke Aramaic! The presentation will include art depicting the Magi drawn as Persian priests for the first 1000 years of Christianity.

Parents Forum - We will have a Parents Forum meeting every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. On December 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 12/6	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 12/8	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
	7:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday 12/9	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Thursday 12/10	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 12/12	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday



Pledged dollars goal is \$340,000.
Currently raised: \$327,316.

Pledged hours goal is 450.
Currently raised: 4,994 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

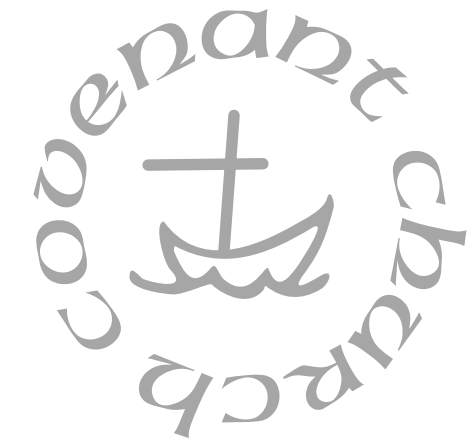
Laura Mayo
Associate Minister

Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

Pat Long
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo
Office Administrator



A Service of Worship for the Second Sunday of Advent 6 December 09

*I vow to look with the eyes of love and a heart
of understanding.
I vow to listen with a clear mind and ears
of compassion,
bringing peace and joy into the lives of others
to lighten and alleviate the suffering of living beings.
I am aware that ignorance and wrong perceptions
can turn this world into a fiery hell.
I vow to walk always upon the path of
transformation,
producing understanding and loving kindness.
I will be able to cultivate a garden of awakening.*

Thich Nhat Hanh

please enter for worship in silence

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

* Prelude Arcangelo Corelli
Concerto grosso in G minor, op. 6, no. 8
Vivace, Grave, Allegro

Choral Introit (8:15) Hyfrydol
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Call to Worship

*+ Processional Hymn 602: Merle’s Tune
“Blest Be the God of Israel”

Lighting the second Advent Candle

Response: Cradle Song
*Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage,
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.*

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:68-79
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to our God.

A Time for Children

*+ Response: Mueller
*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and teach us to love Thee and help us to share.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**We see the signs
but cannot always
divine their meanings.
You call us to move forward
not always knowing
whether what we grasp
in our hands
will prove to be
a seed of hope
or a thorn in our flesh.
Train our fingers,
that what brings life**

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

**we may with persistence hold,
and that which wastes
our souls
we may with grace release.**

Words of Assurance

Deacons’ Group Ministry

Music (8:15) Alfred Burt

“What Are the Signs?”

(11:00) Francis Poulenc

Sonate for Flute and Piano
Allegretto malincolico

Proclamation: Beacon and Eggs

Hymn 48 Es ist ein’ Ros’
“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

Invitation

Prayer

Statement from Stewardship

Offering
Offertory: Arcangelo Corelli

Concerto grosso in G minor, op. 6, no. 8
Adagio, Allegro, Adagio

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Prayer of Dedication

**May we love you enough
to grant space and time to our seeking,
trust you enough
to wait with courage and hope,
and enjoy you enough
to endure our limitations with patience and humor.**

+ 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

**God, each new day is a gift from you
filled with rich possibilities.
Let us be fully alive today,
with eyes open and ears attentive
to all that you want to share with us.
In this morning time, fill us with your love.
Then, all the day through, let us live in your Spirit.
Open our hearts to care for one another.
Help us to greet you in all the people we meet this day.
And as we come to know and care for each other more deeply,
draw us all nearer to yourself.**

+ Recessional Hymn 332 Truro
“Live Into Hope”

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (8:15) Hyfrydol
“Born Thy People to Deliver”

Postlude Arcangelo Corelli
Concerto grosso in G minor, op. 6, no. 8
Pastorale

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 **Ruben Milano**.

The Worship Leaders are **Casey Gambill** and **Alexa Daggett**.

Instrumentalists include **Meg Montgomery** and **Josh Cowan** (violins), **Mendy Smith** (viola), **Susan Wegner** (cello), **Carl McAliley** (harpsichord), and we welcome guests from the Civic Symphony, **Ryan Tatum** (violin), **Susan Kuether** (cello) and **Chris Kuether** (bass).

The Call to Worship is from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi.

Josh Cowan and **Mendy Smith** light the second candle of Advent at the 8:15 service. **Kathleen Cook** and **Ann Green** light the candle at the 11:00 service.

The Time for Children is led by **Ann Christensen**.

The Unison Confession is from *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas* by Jan Richardson.

The Deacons’ Group Ministry reports are given by **David Ramsey** (8:15) and **Beverly Rodgers** (11:00).

The Statement from Stewardship is made by **Jay Hooker**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *The Well is Deep: Prayers to Draw Up Living Water* by Virginia Rickeman.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *The Corrymeela Worship Book*, brought to Covenant by Harley Gambill after her stay with the Corrymeela community in Northern Ireland.