



*A Service of Worship for
Palm/Passion Sunday
24 March 2024*

No one is healed in isolation.

bell hooks

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

*Prelude

Margaret Sandresky
(b. 1921)

“Entrada from ‘L’homme arme Mass”

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #8

Truro

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ,
Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.**

**Redeemer come! I open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

+Opening Prayer

**O God,
Make us brave and bold and scrupled enough
to know that to love our enemies
does not mean to be afraid to meet them
in a daily thrust toward justice;
and in the bold venture of saying what we mean,
and meaning what we say,
to be trustworthy in striving toward intimacy.

Arouse us to pay the price of being merciful
that our lives may reflect your mercy to us.

Empower us to dare
to be compassionate
that your dreams for our humanity may come true,
to be disciplined yet flexible
that we may prepare the way for your kingdom
in our hearts and in your world;
through Jesus. Amen**

Invitation

Scripture Lesson

Mark 11:1-11

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Music

Glenn Rudolph

“Hosanna”

Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who cometh in the name of our God.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Hosanna!

Silent Reflection

Time for Children

+Response:

Valet will Ich Dir geben

All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King!

To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Meditation

+Hymn #536

African-American Spiritual

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

(Verses 1 & 2)

Lord, make us more holy,

Lord, make us more holy,

Lord, make us more holy,

Until we meet again.

Holy, holy, holy,

Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving,

Lord, make us more loving,

Lord, make us more loving,

Until we meet again.

Loving, loving, loving,

Until we meet again.

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**If the concept of God
has any validity or any use,
it can only be to make us
larger, freer, and more loving.**

Words of Assurance

Prayer

+Please stand in body or spirit

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Meditation

+Hymn #536

African-American Spiritual

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”
(Verses 3 & 4)

**Lord, make us more patient,
Lord, make us more patient,
Lord, make us more patient,
Until we meet again.**

**Patient, patient, patient,
Until we meet again.**

**Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Until we meet again.**

**Faithful, faithful, faithful,
Until we meet again.**

Offering

Offertory

Shruthi Rajasekar
(b. 1996)

“Solace”

+Prayer of Dedication

**Help him
that’s what faith is
he can’t bring it about
his kingdom
couldn’t then couldn’t later can’t now
not at any rate without you
and that is his irresistible appeal**

*Praise God the Source of life and birth.
Praise God the Word, who came to earth.
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.*

+Affirmation of Faith

Leader: We must be careful not to narrow the meaning of passion to mean the *suffering* of Jesus rather than broadening the meaning to raise the question: "What was Jesus passionate about?"

People: **I'm convinced it is what Jesus was passionate about that led to his arrest and execution. What he was passionate about, of course, was the kingdom of God.**

+Closing Hymn #80

Lonesome Valley

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself; O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves; O, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial, You have to stand it by yourself, O, nobody else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by yourself.

*Benediction

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Annie Christensen**.

The Call to Worship is by Roger Cowan.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from *My Heart in My Mouth* by Ted Loder.

The Unison Confession is by James Baldwin.

Jason Steiner gives the prayer.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “When He Came” by Dorothee Sölle.

The Affirmation of Faith is from “Homiletics Interview: Marcus Borg – Begin Christian in the 21st Century.” Printed online at www.homileticsonline.com.

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Education 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Adult Education - On this Palm/Passion Sunday Bill Kline will lead a discussion of the history, practice and meaning of Easter.

- *Bill Kline*

Children & Youth Education -

Children’s Lesson

Title: Standing Tall

Lesson: Palm Sunday

Youth Lesson

Scripture: Mark 15:1-39

- *Trena’ Jamison*



HOLY WEEK

COVENANT CHURCH

www.covenantchurch.org

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 24

Labyrinth walk with sound sculptures

9:30am-12:30pm

featuring music by The Covenant Singers

Worship

Palms and Stripping of the Chancel

11:00am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28

Hand washing and communion offered on the Labyrinth

6:30pm-7:00pm

Come-and-go remembrance of Jesus' servanthood

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31

Labyrinth Walk

7:15am

Worship

Flowering of the Cross

Special music by The Covenant Singers

11:00am

Good Friday

Friday, March 29

Tenebrae Service in Sanctuary

7:30pm

Music by The Covenant Singers

Youth Lock-In

7:30pm

Huff Fellowship Hall

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30

Covenant grounds

10:00am



Children and Youth Announcements

Events

- **March 29:** Youth Lock-In
- **March 30:** Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- **April 21:** Children & Youth Sunday
- **June 9-13, 2024:** McMurry University Youth Camp Passport (please see newsletter for sign-up link).
- **July 27-30, 2024:** Heart of Texas Camp Brownwood, TX Children Camp Passport, (please see newsletter for sign-up link).

Calendar

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|---------------|------------------|--|
| Sun. Mar 24 | 9:30am | Adult Education, Adult Education classroom on the 2nd floor of the Huff Fellowship Hall Building |
| | 9:30am | Children & Youth Education, Room B, 2nd floor of the Huff Fellowship Hall Building |
| | 9:30am - 12:30pm | Labyrinth Walk w/Sound Sculptures, Labyrinth |
| | 10:20am | Hospitality, Huff Fellowship Hall Building |
| | 10:40am | Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| | 11:00am | Worship in-person, Sanctuary and via live-stream, YouTube |
| | 12:00pm | Outreach Meeting, Library |
| | 12:15pm | Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary/Children's Area |
| Tue. Mar 26 | 1:00pm | Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom |
| Thurs. Mar 28 | 10:00am | Community Group, Zoom |
| | 6:30pm - 7:00pm | Hand Washing & Communion, Labyrinth |
| | 7:15pm | Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary |

Helpful Information

Childcare: Childcare is provided in the children's area beginning at 9:30 a.m. Children aged 2 and under are invited to the nursery. Children aged 3 to 9 are invited to the children's area after the Time for Children.

Visitor's Card: If you're a visitor with us, please submit a Visitor's Card.

Celebrations and Concerns: If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please submit a Celebrations and Concerns Form.

Membership: If you are interested in learning more about Covenant, we encourage you to talk with one of the ministers or the worship leader. Email Office@covenanthouston.org.

Newsletter: To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to office@covenanthouston.org.

Office Hours: The church office is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm.

Covenant Recycles: If you do not wish to keep your order of worship, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex.

*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,
all gender identities, 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

Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita

Brian Buck, Facilities Coordinator

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth

David Lee, Director of Music

Laura Mayo, Senior Minister

Jason Steiner, Organist

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*Covenant Church recognizes the laws of the State of Texas and the rights of its citizens. Consistent with this acknowledgment and with respect for the values of our Church, we also acknowledge that our congregants and visitors seek a safe and comfortable space for worship and celebration. **In that spirit, we request that all firearms be left in a secure place outside of the Church.** We thank God for providing us with the opportunity to worship together and to continue to respect each other as human beings.*