



*A Service of Worship for
19 April 2020*

Resurrection is not a long ago, unique, unlikely event,
but is potentially present in all human life.

Death threatens us not only at the end of our lives,
but every moment, the thousand little deaths of the spirit,
the grievances we carry, the sorrows that weigh us down,
the sense of frustration or futility that darken our days.

Easter is the promise that we can be reborn;
it is the promise of new life.

It is the assurance that
in the midst of such death
we are also in life.

Earl Holt

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour
Silence is kept

Prelude

“Reflection”

Michael Kimber

Call to Worship

+Opening Prayer

**In times of struggle, God,
you call us to give support;
in times of uncertainty,
you call us to offer a clear vision;
in times of despair,
you call us to speak a word of hope.**

**Bless the good in all we give, and bless our gifts,
that they may bring closer your dream of justice and peace. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

John 11:1-45 and Galatians 5:22-26

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

+Response:

Tallis' Canon

***Go with us, Lord, guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
That in your spirit strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to you.***

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**When there's doubt, there's more considered faith.
Likewise, when citizens doubt, patriotism becomes more informed.**

**For Christians to render everything to Caesar—
their minds, their consciences—
is to become evangelical nationalists.**

That's not a distortion of the gospel; that's desertion.

**It's wonderful to love one's country, but faith is for God.
National unity too is wonderful—but not in cruelty and folly.**

Words of Assurance

Music

James Oppenheim

“Bread and Roses”

Silent reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**Empower me
to be a bold participant,
rather than a timid saint in waiting,
in the difficult ordinariness of now;
to exercise the authority of honesty;
rather than defer to power,
or deceive to get it;
to influence someone for justice,
rather than impress anyone for gain;
and, by grace, to find treasures
of joy, of friendship, of peace
hidden in the fields of the daily
you give me to plow.**

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

**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

**It is more important
to follow the way of Jesus
than to believe or disbelieve
the traditional claims about him.**

**The real task of Christianity today is the challenge
not only to go on interpreting the world in the old way,
but to start disturbing it with renewed power.**

Benediction

Postlude

Thalben-Ball

“Elegy”

Worship Notes

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the close of worship.

The worship leader is **Jme Guehring**.

The prelude is played by Mendy Smith, viola 1; Barbara Creider, viola 2; Joel Belgique, viola 3.

The Call to Worship is a prayer of Carola Moosbach from *Jesus of Nazareth* by Dorothee Soelle and Luise Schottroff.

The Opening Prayer is from *Worship for All Seasons*, edited by Thomas Harding.

The Unison Confession is from *Credo* by William Sloane Coffin.

“Bread and Roses” is sung by Covenant Singers.

The Prayer of Dedication is a prayer from *Wrestling with the Light* by Ted Loder.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Doubts and Loves: What Is Left of Christianity* by Richard Holloway.

Education 10:00 - 10:40 a.m.

Covenant will not be holding in-person education through May 3.

Announcements

Covenant will be holding smaller groups on Zoom. We will also hold virtual coffee time each Sunday at 11am on Facebook.

Calendar

Sun. Apr. 19	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Facebook Live Proclamation
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Apr. 20	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Mon. Apr. 20	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Zoom Meeting
Tue. Apr. 21	4:00 p.m.	Kid's Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Apr. 22	1:00 p.m.	Posted Devotional, View Devotional
Wed. Apr. 22	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr. 23	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr. 23	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr. 23	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Apr. 24	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

Helpful Information

Visitor Cards: If you're a visitor with us, please submit a [Visitors 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 currently not open, but we are responding to emails and phone calls.

*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

Laura Mayo, Senior Minister

Jodi Bash, Director of Children & Youth

Director of Communication

Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita

David Lee, Interim Director of Music

Patrick Parker, Organist

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

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Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly.