



*A Service of Worship for
26 April 2020*

You say I took the name in vain
I don't even know the name
But if I did, well, really, what's it to you?
There's a blaze of light in every word
It doesn't matter which you heard
The holy or the broken Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Prayer is translation.
A man translates himself into a child
asking for all there is in a language he has barely mastered.

Children show scars like medals.
Lovers use them as secrets to reveal.
A scar is what happens when the word is made flesh.

Leonard Cohen

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Anthem of Hope”

Anthony DiLorenzo

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**We remember that your church was born in wind and fire,
not to sweep us heavenward like a presumptuous tower,
but to guide us down the dusty roads of this world
so that we may lift up the downcast,
heal the broken,
reconcile what is lost,
and bring peace amidst unrest.**

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 40:1-12

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

**God of love,
plunge me deep into a sense of sadness
at the pain of my sisters and brothers,
that I may learn again to cry as a child
until my tears baptize me
into a person who touches with care
those I now touch in prayer:**

**victims of violence,
people with broken bodies
with broken hearts,
with broken lives,
whom I remember now in silence before you.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Felix Mendelssohn

“I Waited For the Lord”

Silent reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**There need to be stories;
love has to be told, danced,
sung and whistled.
Love has to be evoked
over and over again.**

*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

**The task for a spirituality of survival, liberation, and wholeness
is to address the existential *and* essential brokenness of all creation
in a holistic manner, ministering to body, mind, spirit, and the material.**

**Such spirituality remembers God who is the strength of *all* life,
who keeps humankind in harmony with the sacred in our everyday work,
and who works for the healing and wholeness of creation.**

Benediction

Postlude

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring”

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 the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra. You can find more about them at <http://roco.org/>, or find them on Twitter or Instagram (@rocohouston) or Facebook ([facebook.com/rocohouston](https://www.facebook.com/rocohouston)).

The Call to Worship is “Dear Crazy, Crying Heart” from *Morning Watch* by Barbara Pescan.

The Opening Sentences are from *Garth House*.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder.

“I Waited For the Lord” is sung by Dana Guidroz and Hannah Rice.

The Prayer of Dedication is a prayer from “*Where Love Is, There Is God,*” in *The Mystery of Death* by Dorothee Soelle.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Spirit: Womanist Wordings on God and Creation* by Karen Baker-Fletcher.

The postlude is played on viola by **Jacy Grannis**.

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

Covenant will not be holding in-person education until further notice.

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. 26	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Apr. 27	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Tue. Apr. 28	4:00 p.m.	Kid’s Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Apr. 29	1:00 p.m.	Posted Devotional, View Devotional
Wed. Apr. 29	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr. 30	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr. 30	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr. 30	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. May. 1	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.