



*A Service of Worship for
17 May 2020*

I, the fiery life of divine wisdom,
I ignite the beauty of the plains,
I sparkle the waters,
I burn in the sun,
and the moon,
and the stars.
With wisdom I order ALL rightly.
Above ALL I determine truth.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Prelude in C major”

Johann Pachelbel

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**You speak in silence
and all languages interpret you.
You are the truth of all words,
their permanence and their comfort
and every person who listens with an open mind
can hear you in his language
and in her own life.
Put words into our mouths, then,
that comfort and shed light,
make us alive to justice and to right,
groan in us for a new creation,
guide our hearts and our faith,
let our thoughts and our labors be fruitful
and give us the bread of peace.**

Scripture Lesson

John 14:15-21

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

**Move over the face of
my deep,
my darkness,
my endless restless chaos,
and create,
O God;
trouble me,
comfort me,
stir me up,
and calm me,
but do not cease
to breathe your Spirit into
my waking soul.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Melody Bober

“Rainbow Falls”

Music

Ludwig van Beethoven

“Ode to Joy”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Music

“O Christ We Trust Your Promise”

**O Christ, we trust your promise that we are not alone,
for God still dwells among us to make in us a home.
God gives the Holy Spirit to teach us how to be
a loving, faithful people, a new community.**

**We find a real assurance within the peace you give;
the Advocate God sends us now shows us how to live.
When we're afraid or anxious, when sin is all we see,
the Spirit builds among us a new community.**

**Your love is your commandment — both old and also new.
In this world's pain, it's urgent that we live love for you.
We're called to love and welcome the poor, the refugee —
to serve with them, creating a new community.**

**So when we seek direction, remind us what is true:
the Advocate is with us to help us follow you.
Christ, guided by the Spirit, may we your people be
A loving, faithful witness in this community.**

Prayer

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**To love is good, too: love being difficult.
For one human being to love another:
that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks,
the ultimate, the last test and proof,
the work for which all other work is but preparation.**

*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

**When I entered the cave hoping for a glimpse of celestial brightness,
it never occurred to me that it might be so small.
But here it is, not much bigger than a mustard seed—everything I need to
remember how much my set ideas get in my way.
While I am looking for something large, bright, and unmistakably holy,
God slips something small, dark, and apparently negligible in my pocket.
How many other treasures have I walked right by
because they did not meet my standards?
At least one of the day's lessons is about learning to let go of my bright ideas about
God so that my eyes are open to the God who is.**

Benediction

Postlude

Louis Vierne

“Toccatà” from 24 Pieces de fantaisie

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 **Sabrina Neff**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is “Poem” by Mary Oliver.

The Opening Sentences are from *Your Word is Near* by Huub Oosterhuis.

The Unison Confession is from *Night Visions* by Jan L. Richardson.

“Rainbow Falls” is played by **Owen Stepp**, piano.

“Ode to Joy” is played by **Sterling Alexander**, clarinet.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Letters to a Young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

“O Christ We Trust Your Promise” is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillete, led by The Covenant Singers.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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. May 17	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. May 18	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Tue. May 19	4:00 p.m.	Kid’s Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. May 20	1:00 p.m.	Posted Devotional, View Devotional
Wed. May 20	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 21	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 21	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 21	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. May 22	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.