



*A Service of Worship for
10 October 2021*

*Our Home, Our Journey
Stewardship at Covenant*

**There's nothing wrong with being successful.
There is nothing wrong with money.
There is nothing wrong with power.
The question is—is it connected to something bigger than you?
Is it connected to what God wants you to do?**

Cornel West

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Dietrich Buxtehude

“Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist” - *Now We Ask the Holy Spirit*

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #414

Forest Green

“As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought”

+Opening Sentences

Our gifts

**whatever we discover them to be
can be used to bless or curse the world.**

The mind’s power,

The strength of the hands,

The reaches of the heart,

the gift of speaking, listening, imagining, seeing, waiting.

Any of these can serve to feed the hungry,

bind up wounds,

welcome the stranger,

praise what is sacred,

do the work of justice,

or offer love.

Scripture Lesson

Mark 10:17-31

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

*+Response:

New England

Throughout the whole creation I see God's loving care

For everyone in every land, God's children everywhere.

Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,

I'm certain of my Maker's love; God's care is over me.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**As we move forward with renewed energy,
let us cast aside our lethargy and the weak excuses
for inaction that may have marked our past.**

**As we begin our corporate life afresh,
let us bury any resentment, envy,
and personal division.**

**As we renew our purpose, may we turn from distraction
and lack of focus.**

**In our yearning for peace and tranquility, may we
reduce the unproductive busyness and anxiety
that fill our days.**

**And as we look forward with hope, let us abandon
cynicism and doubt.**

Words of Assurance

Music

“Who Is the One We Love the Most”

Carl Schalk

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn #405

“What Does the Lord Require”

Sharpthorne

Prayer

Invitation

Stewardship Invitation

Offering

Offertory

“All’Offertorio”

Domenico Zipoli

+Prayer of Dedication

**Today we dedicate ourselves once again
to the vision of beloved community
where every person is celebrated
where we are all bound in common purpose
where we work for peace, compassion, and justice
for all the world.**

+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

**Jesus says in his society there is a new way for people to live:
you show wisdom, by trusting people;
you show leadership, by serving;
you handle offenders, by forgiving;
you handle money, by sharing;
you handle enemies, by loving;
and you handle violence, by suffering.**

**In fact you have a new attitude toward everything, toward everybody.
Toward nature, toward the state in which you happen to live,
toward women, toward slaves, toward all and every single thing.
Because this is a Jesus society and you repent, not by feeling bad,
but by *thinking differently*.**

+Closing Hymn

“Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult”

Stuttgart

**Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying “Christian, follow me.”**

**As, of old, apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying “Christian, love me more.”**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”**

**Jesus calls us; by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

Benediction

Postlude

J.S. Bach

“Herr Christ, der ein’ge Gottes Sohn” - *Lord Christ, the One and Only Son of God*

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **John Preston**.

The prelude, offertory, and postlude are played by Chris Teel, our new organist.

The Call to Worship is “To be of Use” by Marge Piercy from *Circles on the Water*. © Alfred A. Knopf. Reprinted with permission.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from “Benediction” in *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now* by Rebecca Parker.

The Unison Confession is by **Patricia Martin**.

The Stewardship Invitation given by **Bill Kline**.

The text of "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" is by Cecil Frances Alexander (1852).

The Prayer of Dedication is by **Laura Mayo**.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *The Blue Mountain of China* by Rudy Wiebe.

Education 9:00 - 9:40 a.m.

Adult Education recorded education sessions will be made available on this page: [Adult Education Recordings](#).

This week's Adult Ed offering will recognize Indigenous People's Day by acknowledging some of the issues of justice and racism associated with our history relative to Native Americans. We will be introduced through a video to Kaitlin Curtice, a member of the Potawatomi tribe and an author and speaker who speaks about the intersectionality of being raised Christian and her native identity. We look forward to a lively discussion!

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website: [Covenant Gatherings](#)

Announcements

Sunday schedule for this Sunday:

Adult Education (Zoom) 9am
Worship in-person (Covenant) 11am
Worship live-stream 11am

Calendar

Sun. Oct 10	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 a.m.	Worship live-stream
	12:00 p.m.	Celebration of Jodi Bash
Mon. Oct 11	7:30 p.m.	2022 Budget Discussion & Vote, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Oct 14	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Oct 14	7:15 p.m.	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Thur. Oct 14	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Oct 15	1:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, 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 Communication
Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth
Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita
David Lee, Director of Music
Christopher Teel, 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.