



*A Service of Worship for
24 October 2021*

*Our Home, Our Journey
Stewardship at Covenant*

Love is the drive towards the unity of the separated.

Paul Tillich

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Georg Philipp Telemann

“La Grâce”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #461

Abbots Leigh

“God Is Here!”

+Opening Sentences

**We arrive out of many singular rooms,
walking over the branching streets.
We come to be assured that brothers and sisters surround us,
to restore their images on our eyes.
We enlarge our voices in common speaking and singing.
We try again that solitude found in the midst of those
who with us seek their hidden reckonings.
Our eyes reclaim the remembered faces;
their voices stir the surrounding air.
The warmth of their hands assures us,
and the gladness of our spoken names.
This is the reason of cities, of homes,
of assemblies in the houses of worship.
It is good to be with one another.**

Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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

**Let us be artisans,
artisans of hope,
artisans of wonder,
working with the clay of human longing—
of our capacities for greed and indifference,
for exclusion and fear,
as well as our capacities for generosity,
courage, forgiveness, and resilience.**

**As artisans, let us craft together
flourishing communities
of honesty, inclusion, self-critique, and hope.**

Words of Assurance

Music

“Cello Sonata in G minor,” Op. 65

Frédéric Chopin

Silent Reflection

Meditation

Hymn #436

“We Are Your People, verses 1 and 2”

Whitfield

Meditation

Hymn #436

“We Are Your People, verses 3 and 4”

Whitfield

Meditation

Hymn #436

“We Are Your People, verse 5”

Whitfield

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

“Toccata in A Minor”

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

+Prayer of Dedication

**Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it
listen for what it intends to do with you.**

**We have the deep joy of knowing that we are here on earth
to be the gifts that God created.**

**With courage and grace may we find “the place where
our deep gladness meets the world’s deep need.”**

Today we will let our lives speak.

+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

**If the world is to be healed through human efforts,
I am convinced it will be by ordinary people,
people whose love for this life is even greater than their fear,
people who can open up to the web of life that called us into being,
and who can rest in the vitality of that larger body.**

+Closing Hymn #435

“We All Are One in Mission”

Es flog ein klein Waldfögelein

Benediction

Postlude

“Rondeau” *from Première Suite*

Jean Joseph Mouret

Worship Notes

The worship leaders and proclaimers are **David Lee, Linda Phenix, and Lisa Spiro.**

The Pastoral Prayer is given by Deacon **Jay Hooker.**

The Call to Worship is by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The Opening Sentences are by Kenneth L. Paton from *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist hymnal.

The Unison Confession is from “Artisans of Hope, Artisans of Wonder” by Sharon Welch in *Theology that Matters: Ecology, Economy, and God*, edited by Darby Kathleen Ray.

The music is played by **Susan Wegner**, cello, and **Karen Kline**, piano.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Frederick Buechner and Parker Palmer.

The Affirmation of Faith is from Joanna Macy in *Dharma Rain: Sources of Buddhist Environmentalism*, edited by Stephanie Kaza and Kenneth Kraft.

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

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

Rose Lange: Romani (Gypsy) Gospel Music in Hungary

Covenant member Rose Lange will introduce us to the social and musical world of Romani (Gypsy) gospel music. Rose is an ethnomusicologist who has done fieldwork in Hungary and other Central European countries for several decades (she is Professor of Ethnomusicology at the University of Houston). One of her research projects concerned Romani gospel music (she has also researched music in the Romani rights movement, experimental folk music in Central Europe, and other topics). The Romani people are stigmatized and discriminated against in Europe. Rose will share her insights concerning how, excluded from leadership in the major state religions, Romani people were able to develop their own authority networks within Pentecostalism; for a time, musical composition and singing was an essential activity of Romani Pentecostal membership and leadership.

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 24	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 a.m.	Worship live-stream
Thur. Oct 27	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Oct 27	7:15 p.m.	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant

Thur. Oct 27	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Oct 29	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

Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun.

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.