



*A Service of Worship for  
Reformation Sunday  
31 October 2021*

*Our Home, Our Journey  
Stewardship at Covenant*

A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.

You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.

If you preach the gospel in all its aspects with the exception of the issues that deal specifically with your time, you are not preaching the Gospel at all.

Martin Luther

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!  
**And also with you!**

Ring in the hour  
Silence is kept

Prelude

Louis Nicolas Clérambault

“Basse et Dessus de Trompette”

Call to Worship

\*+Opening Hymn #353

Das neugeborne Kindelein

“Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”

+Opening Prayer

**Source of all being,  
we turn to You as did our people in ancient days.  
They beheld You in the stars,  
they felt You in their hearts,  
they sought You in their lives.**

**Now their quest is ours.**

**Help us, O God, to see the wonder of being.  
Give us courage to search for truth.  
Teach us the path to a better life.  
So shall we, by our lives and labors,  
bring nearer to realization the great hope inherited from ages past,  
for a world transformed by liberty, justice, and peace.**

Scripture Lesson

Ruth 1:1-18 and Mark 12:28-34

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

**We have important work.  
But none of us can do this work alone.  
As much as we need constructive self-examination  
and critical dialogue, we need each other.**

**We may never come to think alike  
or to act alike. I hope not.  
But by participating in each other's faith journeys,  
by reaching out to each other and sharing in the struggles  
to name and claim our theologies,  
we can strengthen our public prophetic voice  
and deepen our sense of community  
and our commitment to a shared faith tradition.**

Words of Assurance

Music

"I Give You A New Commandment"

Peter Aston

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

St. Peter

**Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear  
God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.**

**Forgive we now each other's faults  
as we our faults confess;  
And let us love each other well  
in Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown,  
let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek,  
be ours God's holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells God's begotten Son;  
As members of his body joined,  
we are in Christ made one.**

**No race or creed can love exclude,  
if honored be God's name;  
Our family embraces all  
whose Maker is the same.**

Prayer

Invitation

Stewardship Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Charles Gounod

“Offertorium”

+Prayer of Dedication

**We should ask God to increase our hope  
when it is small,  
awaken it when it is dormant,  
confirm it when it is wavering,  
strengthen it when it is weak,  
and raise it up when it is overthrown.**

+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

**Belief in Jesus is most endangered  
by those who are anxious to preserve it.  
They are afraid of changes  
to established customs  
of thinking and living;  
they see reforms as destructive  
and would much prefer  
to hide Jesus in a golden shrine  
—untouchable and therefore also touching no one,  
unchangeable and therefore never changing anyone,  
eternally valid and therefore as far removed  
as possible from our reality.**

†Closing Hymn #435

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

East Acklam

Benediction

Postlude

“Fugue in d minor”

J.S. Bach

### **Worship Notes**

The worship leader is **Nancy Preston**.

The Call to Worship is by Jay Leach.

The Opening Prayer is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book, the 1975 Prayer Book of the Central Conference of [Reformed] Rabbis*.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Faith without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* by Paul Rasor.

The Prayer of Dedication is by John Calvin.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Dorothee Soelle and Luise Schottroff.

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

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

In the Adult Education class on Sunday, October 31, Adam Burke will recount the spiritual journey that eventually brought him to Covenant. Spiritual journeys are one of the most popular and valuable offerings in the Adult Education program, giving us greater knowledge, better understanding, and enhanced appreciation of the individuals who add in varied ways to the life of our beloved community. Please Zoom in to learn more about Adam.

Remember that on Sunday, November 7, the 9:00 class will feature video interviews with Holocaust Survivor recollections, then a visit to the Holocaust Museum down the street about half an hour after the worship service. Next week's newsletter will include details, most of which were included in last week's issue of [The Voyager](#), the Adult Education occasional newsletter. As added background for the class and museum visit, we recommend that, if you did not watch the class session on October 17, that you view the six short videos comprising an excellent program, [Antisemitism](#). Explained, also available [here](#) on YouTube. It will help the museum to know about how many plan to make the visit, to see if we need one or two docents to help provide the best experience, so please drop a note to Bill Martin <[wcm@rice.edu](mailto:wcm@rice.edu)> if you plan to visit the museum. It's not a binding commitment, but it will be helpful if you let Bill know as soon as you think you plan to go.

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 31	9:00 am	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 am	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship live-stream
Thur. Nov 4	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov 4	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Thur. Nov 4	8:00 pm	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Nov 5	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Nov 5	1:00 pm	Book Club, Zoom Meeting
Sat. Nov 6	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant

## **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](mailto:Office@covenanthouston.org).

**Newsletter:** To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto: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.*