



*A Service of Worship for
13 February 2022*

It is not the strongest of the species that survives,
nor the most intelligent that survives.
It is the one that is the most adaptable to change,
that lives within the means available
and works co-operatively against common threats.

Charles Darwin

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #268

Holy Manna

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

+Opening Sentences

**In our openness to the creative love of God,
we receive new possibilities for existence
that point us away from our own narrow interests
and toward a wider horizon.**

**In our openness to the responsive love of God,
we receive assurance of our own acceptance
become free of preoccupation with ourselves
and are able to turn toward others.**

**In these ways we reflect
the creative-responsive love of God
as we relate to others
and realize the possibilities in ourselves.**

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 17:5-8

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

+Response:

Lasst uns erfreuen

**In every land begin the song,
To every land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise
And fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**“Science is not only compatible with spirituality;
It is a profound source of spirituality.
When we recognize our place in an immensity
of light-years and in the passage of ages,
when we grasp the intricacy, beauty, and subtlety of life,
then that soaring feeling, that sense of elation
and humility combined, is surely spiritual...
The notion that science and spirituality are
somehow mutually exclusive does a disservice to both.”**

Words of Assurance

Silent Reflection

Hymn #291

“O God of Earth and Altar”

Llangloffan

Proclamation

Hymn #386

“O For a World”

Azmon

Prayer

Invitation

“Bist Du Bei Mir” (*Are You With Me*)

+Prayer of Dedication

Leader: In the midst of the whirling day,
In the hectic rush to be doing,
In the frantic pace of life,
Pause here for a moment.

**All: Catch your breath;
Relax your body;
Loosen your grip on life.**

Leader: Consider that our lives are always unfinished business;
Imagine that the picture of our being is never complete;
Allow yourself to be a work in progress.

**All: Do not hurry to mold the masterpiece;
Do not rush to finish the picture;
Do not be impatient to complete the drawing.
From beckoning birth to dawning death we are in process,
And always there is more to be done.**

Leader: Do not let the incompleteness weigh on your spirit;
Do not despair that imperfection marks your every day;
Do not fear that we are still in the making.

**All: Let us instead be grateful that we are still to be created;
Let us give thanks that we can be more than we are;
Let us celebrate the power of the incomplete;
For life is always unfinished business.**

*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

**There is a simple grandeur in the view of life
with its powers of growth, assimilation
and reproduction, being originally breathed
into matter under one or a few forms,
and that whilst this our planet has
gone circling on according to fixed laws,
and land and water, in a cycle of change,
have gone on replacing each other,
that from so simple an origin,**

through the process of gradual selection of
infinitesimal changes, endless forms most beautiful
and most wonderful have been evolved.

Music

Jane Marshall

“The Greatest of These”

The Greatest of These

CONGREGATION PART

CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH

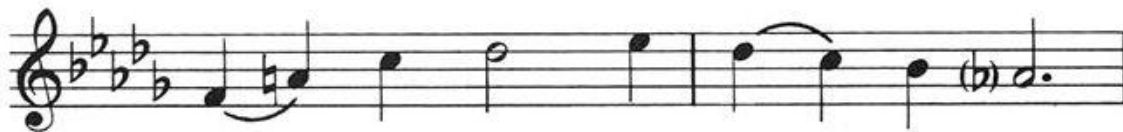
JANE MARSHALL



ALL: 4. Faith___ and hope and love we see,



join - ing hand in hand, a - gree;



but___ the great - est of___ the three,



and the best, is love.

Benediction

Postlude

George Gershwin
(1898-1937)

“Prelude II”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Tim Wegner**.

The Call to Worship is from *Dawin in Malibu* by Crispin Whittle.

The Opening Sentences is adapted from *Process Theology: An Introductory Exposition* by John Cobb and David Griffin.

The Unison Confession is by Carl Sagan.

The Prayer of Dedication is “Life is Always Unfinished Business” by Richard Gilbert.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Charles Darwin.

Education 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Adult Education

Our Black History Month theme will continue through February. This week we will consider video comments from another compelling black voice speaking truth to a white audience, clinical psychologist and professor of practical theology Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes.

- *Bill Kline*

Children & Youth Sunday School

We will have two options for Sunday School: virtual from 10-10:30, and in-person in the Huff Fellowship Hall from 10:30-11 (masks required). This way, everyone can take part in the fun.

- *Trena' Jamison*

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website:

<https://www.covenanthouston.org/covenant-gatherings.html>

Announcements

Please join us today after service for some games and community service. We will create some greeting cards for cancer patients while enjoying the company of each other playing games. Lunch will be provided. I hope to see you all there.

- *Trena' Jamison, Director of Children & Youth*

Calendar

Sun, Feb 13	9:00 am	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	10:00 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Zoom
	10:30 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship live-stream
Tue. Feb 15	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Feb 17	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Feb 17	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Fri. Feb 18	1:00 pm	Book Club, 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

Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth

David Lee, Director of Music

Laura Mayo, Senior Minister

Christopher Teel, Organist

4949 Caroline Street

Houston, Texas 77004

713-668-8830

office@covenanthouston.org

www.covenanthouston.org