

Education 10:00 - 10:40 a.m.

Adult Education

Today, Bruce Yaeger will present “Belonging to the Cosmos: Confounding the Cosmic Pessimists.” Today, New Year reflections are done on a person-by-person basis. Traditionally, however, Christian hope was grounded on a view of the world much larger than human lives—and even larger than the Earth itself. God was cosmic! Can we draw upon modern scientific knowledge in a way to restore an inspirational vision of who we are on this Earth and in this cosmos?

Children & Youth Sunday School

The PreK class - The PreK class (ages 3-Kindergarten) will read the story *Jesus calls disciples*, Mark 1:16-20. They will "sew" fishing nets.

Elementary class - The Elementary class (grades 1-5) will discuss the story *Studying at the temple*, Luke 2:41-52. Laura will be a guest in the group to discuss baptism at Covenant.

Youth Group - The youth group (grades 6-12) will meet in the orange room with their mentors for Youth/Mentor Sunday. Laura will be a guest in the group to discuss baptism at Covenant.

Announcements

Sunday, January 13: This is Youth/Mentor Sunday at 10am. We also have our first committee meetings of 2019 after the second service in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, January 27: We will have a meeting to update the congregation on the status of our 2019 Operation Budget at noon in the sanctuary, directly after the second service. All are invited to attend.

Calendar

Sun. Jan. 13	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Youth/Mentor Sunday</i>
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	<i>Committee Meetings</i>
Thurs. Jan. 17	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Jan. 20	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Education
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Thurs. Jan. 24	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Helpful Information

Childcare: Childcare is provided in the children’s area beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Visitor Cards: If you’re a visitor with us, please fill out a blue card and place it in the offering plate, or give it to the worship leader or one of our ministers after the service.

Celebrations and Concerns: If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please complete a green Celebration and Concerns card and place it in the offering plate, or give it to the worship leader or a minister after the service.

Membership: If you are interested in learning more about Covenant, we encourage you to talk with one of the ministers or the worship leader.

Newsletter: To subscribe to the newsletter, please send an email request to office@covenanthouston.org.

Office Hours: The church office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Covenant Recycles: If you do not wish to keep your order of worship, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex.

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

Fran Avera, Minister of Music

David Lee, Associate Minister of Music

Patrick Parker, Organist

Jodi Bash, Director of Children & Youth

Director of Communication

Kathleen Yaeger, Financial Administrator

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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.



***A Service of Worship for
13 January 2019***

*Let us practice the establishment of peace
in our hearts and on earth.*

Thich Nhat Hanh

Preparing for worship with silence

Prelude "When Christ to Jordan Came" Dieterich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #71 "Lord, When You Came to Jordan" Genevan 130

+Opening Sentences

**We seek peace with all people.
We affirm that security rests not in armaments.
We seek a just economic order
in which everyone has access to the abundance of the earth.
We seek justice in human relationships.
We choose struggle rather than indifference.
We choose to be citizens rather than subjects.
We choose to be friends of the earth, not exploiters.
We choose to be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers.
We join other communities
resisting the threat of hunger and injustice.
Before us today are set life and death.
We unite to resist the powers of death;
We choose life that we and our children may live.**

Scripture Lesson Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children
*+ Response: Tallis' Canon
*Go with us, Lord, and 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
**To be devout
means to give oneself to God,
to take part in the movement of love in the world
and to become love oneself.
We dedicate our energy
and our resources
to work that makes love manifest.**

Words of Assurance

Music "At the River" Aaron Copland

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #321 "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine" Song 13

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory "The Waters of Grace" Olivier Messiaen

+Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God,
bless our offering
that it may reach and touch
those who hunger,
who hurt,
who seek new hope.
We dedicate our gifts,
our lives,
and all that we have
to the work
of life,
of love,
of peace.
Receive our gifts and lead us
in wisdom and courage. Amen.**

+Doxology Old Hundred

*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

**In joining this church,
having passed through ritual waters or not,
we dedicate ourselves to being a vital part of this community.
We understand that we are God's children.
That we are loved.
May thoughts of baptism on this day
remind us of who and whose we are.**

+Closing Hymn #374 "Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace" Dickinson College
(Verses 1-4)

Benediction

Postlude "When Christ to Jordan Came" J. S. Bach

Worship Notes

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the close of worship. **Lucas Cuellar** is the acolyte at the 11am service. The worship leader is **Estaban Fernandezlopez**. The Call to Worship is from *The Well is Deep: Prayers to Draw Up Living Waters* by Virginia Rickeman. The Opening Sentences are by Warren Talbot. The Unison Confession is adapted from *Loving God* by Dorothee Sölle. **Eric Avera** is the soloist at the 9am service. The Prayer of Dedication is from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. The Affirmation of Faith is by **Laura Mayo**.

*Ushers will seat latecomers
+Please stand in body or spirit

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Please stand in body or spirit