

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

Adult Education

Today, January 20, Bob Tucker will lead adult education. His topic: The Bible not only contains history it also has a history, written by different individuals, with different audiences and purposes in mind, and at different times. This rich diversity is often glossed over. When attention is given to the variances, even something as well-known as the birth story of Jesus startle with numerous and contradictory messages. Actually, we find six stories of Jesus birth in the New Testament, allowing us a wide diversity of thought and practice.

Children & Youth Sunday School

The PreK class - The PreK class (ages 3-Kindergarten) will read the story *Jesus heals a mother*, Mark 1:29-34. They will craft a "healing hand" and create a card for a sick child.

Elementary class - The Elementary class (grades 1-5) will discuss the story *Jesus brings good news*, Luke 4:14-30. They will create a scroll of good news.

Youth Group - The youth group (grades 6-12) will meet in the orange room to discuss Luke 4:14-30 and Jesus' good news. They will also discuss an MLK quote within the context of Luke.

Announcements

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. 20	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Education
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Theology Book Group</i>
Thurs. Jan. 24	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Jan. 27	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Education
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Budget Meeting</i>
Thurs. Jan. 31	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

4949 Caroline Street
Houston, Texas 77004
713-668-8830

www.covenanthouston.org
office@covenanthouston.org

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
Martin Luther King Day
20 January 2019***

*We face some difficult days ahead,
but don't let anybody tell you America hasn't seen worse.
Our foremothers and fathers faced far greater odds
with far fewer resources.
It's our time now.
Arm in arm,
we're moving forward together,
not one step back.
Rev. Dr. William Barber*

Preparing for worship with silence

Prelude "Annum per Annum"

Call to Worship
*+ Opening Hymn #289 "O God of Every Nation"

+Opening Sentences
**Martin Luther King Jr. said,
“Power without love is reckless and abusive;
love without power is sentimental and anemic.”
Each person is a center of power.
Our task is to use our personal power
on behalf of love and justice
to effect systemic change.**

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 62:1-5
These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children
*+ Response:
*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
**We must make a choice.
Will we continue to march to the drumbeat
of conformity and respectability, or will we,
listening to the beat of a more distant drum,
move to its echoing sounds?
Will we march only to the music of time,
or will we, risking criticism and abuse,
march to the soulsaving music of eternity?
More than ever before we are today challenged
by the words of yesterday,
“Be not conformed to this world,
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”**

Words of Assurance

Music (9:00) "Pride (In the Name of Love)" arr. Mark Brymer
(11:00) William Byrd,
arr. Douglas Wagner

"Non Nobis Domine"
*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.*

Silent Reflection
Proclamation
+Hymn #348 "Christian Women, Christian Men" Huntsville

Pastoral Prayer
Invitation
Offering
Offertory "Annum per Annum" Arvo Pärt

+Prayer of Dedication
**One word, one action, or one thought
can reduce another person’s suffering
and bring joy.
One word can give comfort and confidence,
destroy doubt, help someone avoid a mistake,
reconcile a conflict, or open the door to liberation.
One action can save a person’s life.
One thought can do the same,
because thoughts lead to words and action.**

+Doxology Old Hundreth
*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
**Love cannot remain by itself--
it has no meaning.
Love has to be put into action
and that action is service.
Whatever form we are
it is not how much we do,
but how much love we put in the doing;
a lifelong sharing of love with others.**

+Closing Hymn #405 "What Does the Lord Require"
Benediction
Postlude "Annum per Annum" Arvo Pärt

Worship Notes

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the close of worship. **Hannah Fernandezlopez** is the acolyte at the 9am service. **Lucas Cuellar** is the acolyte at the 11am service.

The worship leader is **Esteban Fernandezlopez**.

The Call to Worship is from *The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness* by Karen Armstrong.

The Opening Sentences are from *Reason and Reverence: Religious Humanism for the 21st Century* by William Murry.

The Unison Confession is from “Transformed Nonconformist” in *Strength to Love* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jay Hooker and **K. T. Tilford** are the singers at the 11am service.

Music at the 9am service, words by Bono and music by U2.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Transforming Anger* by Thich Nhat Hanh.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Words to Love By* by Mother Theresa.

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

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Please stand in body or spirit