



***A Service of Worship for
17 February 2019***

*If we lose faith in the power of
justice to overcome oppression –
love to overcome hatred,
compassion to overcome violence,
welcome to overcome hostility –
then we have lost it all.*

Cornel West

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.

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

Adult Education

This Sunday, February 17, K.T. Tilford will discuss his spiritual journey.
 Last Sunday, February 10, Bill Martin spoke to the Adult Education class about "All the Presidents Man: Billy Graham and Presidents from Truman to Trump." A version of that talk is now available as a Baker Institute Report. See the newsletter from Feb. 13 for the link.

Children & Youth Sunday School

This week all kids will participate in a project for our children & youth auction on March 3. Our Sunday School classes will work on creating tie-dye socks on Sunday. These will be for sale at the auction. Meet in the pine needle bed between the 2 buildings.

Announcements

Sunday, February 17: Game day in the fellowship hall. Old and young lovers of board games are invited to stay and play with a pizza lunch provided.

Sunday, March 3: The Children and Youth Auction will take place directly after the second service on March 3rd. Join us in the Huff Fellowship Hall for a silent auction, drinks, food, and FUN!

Wednesday, March 6: Our Ash Wednesday service will be in our sanctuary at 7:30pm.

Calendar

Sun. Feb. 17	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Education
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	<i>Board Game Day!</i>
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Theology Book Group</i>
Thurs. Feb. 21	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Feb. 24	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Education
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Thurs. Feb. 28	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Preparing for worship with silence

Prelude "Andante" and variations Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #274 Leoni
"O God of Earth and Space"

+Opening Prayer

**It would be much easier, Jesus,
to ignore the hard truths around us:
the widening gap
between rich and poor,
the consistency with which the powerful
get their way,
the bending of rules and the self-enrichment
of the connected and influential,
the lack of adequate care, protection and resources
for the most vulnerable among us;
we would rather not see these signs.**

**It would be much easier
if we could just pretend everything was alright,
if we could prophesy goodness and hope,
and ignore the cruelty and evil;
if we didn't have to offend the status quo,
or challenge the comfortable;
if we could convince ourselves that the cross,
was just a one time thing –
your calling, not ours.**

**But, we can't do this, Jesus, because we know too much;
your Gospel has captured us and opened our eyes,
and we have become committed to love,
the love that must speak for the voiceless,
the love that must challenge injustice,
the love that draws lines of division
between truth and denial,
between compassion and expediency.**

**Give us the courage to acknowledge what we see,
to name the signs of the times,
to disrupt the 'way things are'
in the name of what should be.
Amen.**

Scripture Lesson Luke 6:17-26

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

A Time for Children

*+ Response: Tallis' Cannon
**Go with us, Lord, 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

**The cowardice that keeps silent
in the face of the sufferings of the oppressed
and that offers any number of adroit justifications
represents an especially serious failure of Christians.**

Words of Assurance

Music (9:00) Randall Thompson

"The Best of Rooms"

(11:00) Robert Schumann

"Five Pieces in a Folk Style"
No. 2, Langsam

Proclamation

+Hymn #386 Azmon

"O for a World"

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory Josef Rheinberger

"Andante"
from *Sonata I*

+Prayer of Dedication

**God of Love,
May I not forget I have a heart - to love a broken world.
May I not forget I have a voice - to speak out for the poor.
May I not forget I have hands - to reach out to other people.
May I not forget I have feet - to go where I am needed.
Let me never forget
You will be with me
Always.**

+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.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Affirmation of Faith

**May the anger of Christ be mine,
When the world grows hard and greedy;
when the rich have no care for the poor,
when the powerful take from the needy.**

**May the empathy of Christ be mine,
when the outstretched hand's not taken,
when the jobless stand in line,
when the lonely live forsaken.**

**May the love of Christ be mine
for the anguished, for the ailing,
for the frail, disabled life,
for the fallen, for the failing.**

**May the actions of Christ be mine,
bringing hope, bringing new direction;
making peace in a warring time,
offering welcome, not rejection.**

+Closing Hymn #272 Roeder

"God of the Sparrow"

Benediction

Postlude

"Andante Maestoso"
from *Sonata II*

Felix Mendelssohn

Worship Notes

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the close of worship.

The worship leader is **Christa Robbins**.

The Call to Worship is by Bill McKibben.

The Opening Prayer is by John van der Laar.

The Unison Confession is by Gustavo Gutiérrez from *We drink from Our Own Wells: The Spiritual Journey of a People*, 20th Anniversary Edition.

Susan Wegner plays the cello at the 11am service.

The adapted Prayer of Dedication is by Max Khanna.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Colin Gibson from *Dare to Dream: A Prayer and Worship Anthology from Around the World* edited by Geoffrey Duncan.

+Please stand in body or spirit