

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

**Adult Education**

This Sunday, March 3, Susan Yarbrough will be presenting her spiritual journey. Susan is a 72-year-old native Texan who was introduced to Covenant in 1970 when she moved to Houston to do graduate work at Rice University. She was a member until 1975, when she moved to New York to work.

Susan practiced law for twelve years in the state and federal courts of New York and Texas, after which she was a judge on the United States Immigration Court for eighteen years. She retired from the legal business in 2005, and in 2014 she honored the call to ministry that she had heard at the age of seven. She entered seminary at the age of 67, graduated at the age of 70, and was ordained soon after that.

Susan recently rejoined Covenant. She alternates her Sundays between here and the Houston Mennonite Church, where her spouse, Sylvia Klauser, will be one of its pastors.

**Children & Youth Sunday School**

The PreK class - Ages 3-Kindergarten will read the story Jesus walks on water, Mark 6:45-52. They will create a mobile and test the power of wind.

Elementary class - Grades 1-5 will discuss the story Healing on the Sabbath, Luke 6:1-11. They will play emotion charades and create a compassion quilt.

Youth Group - Meet at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall with Jodi and the Children & Youth committee to set up for the silent Auction that begins after the second service . All youth on deck!

**Announcements**

**Today, 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. Mar. 3	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>Children &amp; Youth Auction</i>
Wed. Mar. 6	7:30 p.m.	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>
Sun. Mar. 10	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>Committee Meetings</i>
Thurs. Mar. 14	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  
Transfiguration Sunday  
3 March 2019***

*You ask me how to pray to someone who is not.  
All I know is that prayer constructs a velvet bridge  
And walking it we are aloft, as on a springboard,  
Above landscapes the color of ripe gold  
Transformed by a magic stopping of the sun.  
That bridge leads us to the shore of Reversal  
Where everything is just the opposite and the word is  
Unveils a meaning we hardly envisioned.  
Notice: I say we, there, every one, separately,  
Feels compassion for others entangled in the flesh  
And knows that if there is no other shore  
We will walk that aerial bridge all the same.*

Czeslaw Milosz

Preparing for worship with silence

Prelude "Bergamesca" Samuel Scheidt

Call to Worship

\*+ Opening Hymn #285 "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" Austrian Hymn

+Opening Sentences

**What prayer at its best, at our best, has always done is help us to live consciously, honorably, and compassionately. Because I am not stronger, more self-sufficient, smarter, braver or any less mortal than my forbears or my neighbors, I need this help. As long as prayer helps me to be more loving, then I need prayer. As long as prayer serves as a potent means of sharing my love with others, I need prayer.**

Scripture Lesson Luke 9:28-36  
These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

\*+ 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

**For times when we have assumed that we, and we alone, had the right answers, certain of our certainty, certain of their error, talking, not listening, speaking, not hearing, forgive us.  
For times when we have been too timid to speak a word of truth we felt, afraid of not being heard, afraid of being heard, listening, not speaking, hearing but silent, forgive us.**

**If ever we forget that You are present among us, in our words, in their words, in the words we read, in the stories we tell, and ours is but the task of discovery, forgive us and make us free. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music (9:00) "Alleluia" Randall Thompson

(11:00) "Jesu Redemptor" Oreste Ravanello

*Jesus, the redeemer, is the source of light and shows us who God is. Recall and store away in your hearts the events surrounding him, who provided the pattern for our lives. Amen.*

Proclamation

+Hymn #359 "More Love to Thee, O Christ" More Love to Thee

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Offering Offertory "Magnificat" Johann Pachelbel

+Prayer of Dedication

**Let us offer the world the best flowers and fruits of our practice: lucidity, solidity, brotherhood and sisterhood, understanding, and compassion. Let us give rise to the determination to look deeply into the nature of fear, anger, hatred, and violence and to give rise to the eyes of compassion. Breathing in, we are aware of violence within ourselves and within the world. Breathing out, we are determined to look with the eyes of compassion at the violence within ourselves and the world. We know that with the energy of mindfulness, concentration, and awakened wisdom, we can lessen violence every day. We know that responding to violence with compassion is our only path.**

+Doxology

***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

**Prayer is not limited to words or silence. We pray with our action, our work, our choices, our living. The active, justice-seeking prayer of our bodies brings the realm of God to the here and now even as our voices petition to make the kingdom of God among us. We pray with our listening and our forgiveness. We pray with our kindness and hospitality. We pray with our calls and marches. We pray with our welcome. We pray with our words, but not simply with our words: we pray with our lives. As Martin Luther King Jr, says, "I take prayer too seriously to use it as an excuse for avoiding work and responsibility."**

+Closing Hymn #206

"O Hear Our Cry, O Lord"

Benediction

Postlude

"Passacaglia"

Old Hundreth

Vineyard Haven

Domenico Zipoli

### 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 **Arthur Pike**.

The Call to Worship is by Jill Crainshaw.

The Opening Sentences are by Kate Braestrup.

The Unison Confession is by **Jim Avera**.

The adapted Prayer of Dedication is from *Creating True Peace: Ending Violence in Yourself, Your Family, Your Community, and the World* by Thich Nhat Hanh.

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