



*A Service of Worship for  
3 May 2020*

They met him again after  
they had seen him killed.  
And then after they  
had been formed into  
a little society or community,  
they found God somehow  
inside them as well.

C. S. Lewis

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!  
**And also with you!**

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Prelude from Suite No. 1 in G major”

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

†Opening Prayer

**You said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them.”**

**We need your presence on the long road, Lord.**

**The road between fear and hope,  
the road between the place where all is lost  
and the place of resurrection.**

**Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,  
we are in need of your company!**

**Jesus, stand among us.**

**Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.**

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24:13-35

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

Time for Children

†Response:

Tallis’ Canon

*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

**Keeper of heaven and earth,  
guardian of our coming and going,  
of our times of tender reflection  
and our moments of turmoil,**

**Our lives are fragile.  
We violate each other in personal relationships,  
as nations, as inept keepers of life's beauty.  
Sharpen our sensitivities.  
Stir in us preference for listening over speaking,  
for tenderness over aggression,  
for solidarity and community over alienation.  
Deepen for us the meaning of the resurrection,  
that we not only speak words of transformation  
but embody those words in our life together. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Shirley Erena Murray

“For Everyone Born”

Silent reflection

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**We break this bread for sisters and brothers and all siblings  
who live in lands where war prevails  
as a sign that we all share  
both in the pain of war and the longing  
and fight for peace and justice.**

**We break this bread for brothers and sisters and all siblings  
of differing beliefs and religious affiliation  
as an expression of the fact that we are all part of  
the same humanity  
and share this life on earth with one another.**

**We break this bread for our wounded earth,  
for fields, forests, and seas,  
as a sign that we belong together  
with the whole of God's creation  
and want to take responsibility  
for the healing of the earth's wounds.**

**We break this bread for the division  
and brokenness we experience within ourselves  
and in relationships between people  
as an expression that we want to open ourselves  
to wholeness and life  
when we share the bread that is the body of Christ.**

*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.*

## THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*You are welcome to use whatever elements you have for communion this Sunday.*

Communion Prayer

**Christ has a thousand faces.**

**We have to be ready  
for the one who comes now.**

**It would be well if our worship included a time  
when we could tell  
what Christ we have met as we break the bread.**

**This would mean to break the bread a second time,  
in exposures of the heart.**

**It would mean to fulfill the act of worship  
not in private consumption of the offered sacrament  
but in a community of shared need and shared reward.**

**It would mean shattering the one face of Christ  
into a thousand faces.**

**It would mean the naked awareness that the unity of Christ  
is love in the presence of diversity.**

<sup>+</sup>Affirmation of Faith

**If we believe in the Incarnation,  
there should be no one on earth  
in whom we are not prepared to see,  
in mystery,  
the presence of Christ.**

Music

K. Lee Scott

“Christ Be With Me”

Benediction

Postlude

Louis Vierne

“Prelude” from 24 Pieces en Style Libre

## **Worship Notes**

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

**Nancy Henry** created the communion banner pictured above the epigraph.

The communion video was created by **Ryan McKinny**, the deacons of Covenant, and **Laura Mayo**. It was edited by Ryan McKinny. Ryan plays the banjo and sings “Amazing Grace.” Ryan would like to dedicate his playing and singing to **Reagan Miller**.

The worship leader is **Bill Martin**.

The prelude is played by **Susan Wegner**, cello.

The Call to Worship is adapted from a prayer by Henri Nouwen and “And the Table Will Be Wide,” a poem by Jan Richardson.

The Opening Prayer is “Road to Emmaus Call to Worship” from *Leading in worship: worship resources in a Mennonite voice for ears of all kinds*.

The Unison Confession is from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

“For Everyone Born” is sung by the Covenant Singers with **Susan Wegner**, cello.

The Communion Prayer is adapted from *Christ in a Changing World* by Tom Driver.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Christina Lövestam, used in the Swedish mass for wisdom, the Sofia-mässa.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Thomas Merton.

“Christ Be With Be” is sung by the Covenant Singers.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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

Covenant will not be holding in-person education until further notice.

## **Announcements**

Covenant will be holding smaller groups on Zoom. We will also hold virtual coffee time each Sunday at 11am on Facebook.

## **Calendar**

Sun. May. 3	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. May 4	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Tue. May 5	4:00 p.m.	Kid’s Corner, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Wed. May 6	1:00 p.m.	Posted Devotional, <a href="#">View Devotional</a>
Wed. May 6	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. May 7	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. May 7	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. May 7	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Fri. May. 8	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>

### **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](mailto:Office@covenanthouston.org).

**Newsletter:** To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto: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*

*Laura Mayo, Senior Minister*

*Jodi Bash, Director of Children & Youth*

*Director of Communication*

*Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita*

*David Lee, Interim Director of Music*

*Patrick Parker, Organist*

*Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator*

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*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.*