



*A Service of Worship for  
Pentecost Sunday  
31 May 2020*

Die Herrlichkeit Gottes ist jedes Geschöpf voll lebendig.

תהילתו של אלוהים הוא כל יצור חי לגמרי

La gloria de Dios es toda criatura completamente viva.

Слава Богу твари вполне жив.

La gloire de Dieu est toute créature pleinement vivant.

榮耀是每一个活着的生物完全神。

Kemuliaan Allah adalah setiap makhluk hidup sepenuhnya.

The glory of God is every creature fully alive.

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist BuxWV 209”

Dieterich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**Exuberant Spirit of God,  
bursting with the brightness of flame  
into the coldness of our lives  
to warm us with a passion for justice and beauty,  
we praise you.**

**Exuberant Spirit of God,  
sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy  
to breathe vitality into our struggles for change,  
we praise you.**

**Exuberant Spirit of God,  
speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust  
to convey messages of truth and new understanding,  
we praise you.**

**Exuberant Spirit of God,  
flame  
wind  
speech,  
burn, breathe, speak in us;  
fill your world with justice and with joy.**

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:1-21

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**God of the living and the dead,  
we confess sometimes we are more dead than alive  
to the possibilities you place before us.  
In the midst of pain, unfairness, and destructive forces on all sides,  
we see little hope.  
We find it hard to discern a role for ourselves in working for a better world;  
we seem powerless to change  
even that little part of the planet where we live.  
How can we find a spiritual dimension in life?**

Words of Assurance

Hymn

“Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit”

Silent Reflection

Prayer

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**Thank you, God, for this day of communion,  
when we share food for body, mind, and heart.  
In ways beyond our understanding, deeper than our knowing,  
you come to us and offer us yourself.**

\*Doxology

Old Hundredth

*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.*

+Affirmation of Faith

**God is in the faith  
By which we overcome  
The fear of loneliness, of helplessness,  
Of failure and of death.**

**God is in the hope  
Which, like a shaft of light,  
Cleaves the dark abyss  
Of sin, suffering, and despair.**

**God is in the love  
Which creates, protects, forgives.  
God's spirit broods over the chaos we have wrought,  
Disturbing its static wrongs,  
And stirring into life the formless beginnings  
Of the new and better world.**

Benediction

Postlude

Domenico Zipoli

“Al Post Comunión”

### **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 **Jerrell Jones**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is “Preface” from *Life Tides* by Elizabeth Tarbox.

The Opening Sentences is by Jan Berry from *Bread for Tomorrow: Prayers of the Church Year*.

The Unison Confession is by Lavon Bayler from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit*.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Virginia Rickeman from *The Well is Deep: Prayers to Draw Up Living Water*.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayerbook* from the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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

### **May 31, Live Zoom Meeting**

We will hold a live adult education class via Zoom on Sunday, May 31 at 10am, right before our coffee time. Dr. Sravana Varma, who spoke to the class about basics of Hinduism, has agreed to give another lecture about the Hindu caste system. The information on the Zoom class is on our [Online Gatherings page](#). This page is password protected, if you need the password or the direct link to the zoom meeting please contact [Jodi@covenanthouston.org](mailto:Jodi@covenanthouston.org). Questions can be asked during the lecture using the chat feature of Zoom and Dr. Varma will answer them after the lecture. You can also send questions ahead of time to Bill Martin ([bmartin1937@gmail.com](mailto:bmartin1937@gmail.com)). He will forward them to Dr. Varma for consideration. We hope you will join us in the live experiment of education!

### 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 31	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Tue. June 2	11:00 a.m.	Kids Corner, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Wed. June 3	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. June 4	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. June 4	6:00 p.m.	Youth/Mentor Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. June 4	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Friday, June 5	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Monday, June 8	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, <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.*