



*A Service of Worship for
Trinity Sunday
7 June 2020*

I could hear people shouting all over that vast audience,
"Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!"
Before I knew it, I started weeping.
I was crying for joy.
And I knew about all of the struggles,
all of the pain,
and all of the agony
that these people had gone through for this moment.
We could hear little children six years old
and old people eighty
and ninety years old walking the streets . . .
crying: "Freedom! Freedom!"

They were crying it in a sense that they had never heard it before.
And I could hear that old Negro spiritual once more crying out:
"Free at last, free at last, Great God Almighty, I'm free at last."
They were experiencing that in their very souls.
And everywhere we turned,
we could hear it ringing out from the housetops.
We could hear it from every corner,
every nook and crook of the community.
"Freedom! Freedom!"
This was the breaking loose from Egypt.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (from his autobiography)

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Small Settings of the Kyrie” from Clavier Ubung III

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**Ultimately what matters most
is love and community,
including a commitment
to social justice.
We must lead the way
through our commitment
to the essential goodness of humanity,
tolerance, and freedom.
Jesus came that we might have life,
and have it abundantly.**

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 28:16-20

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

**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 light,
and ignore the gloom 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 slaves 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,
to divide in order to heal and restore,
and to live our lives for the sake of love.**

Words of Assurance

Music
Trenney

arr. Tom

“We Shall Overcome”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

**The church of Christ, in every age,
beset by change but Spiritled,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating Word.**

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**BREATHE IN- justice and equity for humanity in all its forms
BREATHE OUT- the vile waste of racism and oppression
BREATHE IN- strength and unity to stand up to unchecked abuse of police power
BREATHE OUT- the rotten stench of white supremacy and all of its manifestations
in our society**

*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.

+Affirmation of Faith

**The opposite of fear is not courage but compassion.
We fear what we do not know,
and the mother of fear is ignorance,
but we cannot fear that which we love,
for as Jesus tells us,
perfect love casts our fear.
Compassion leaves no room for fear;
we are too busy doing what we can,
what we must,
and what God wishes us to do,
to take time to fear the consequences.**

Benediction

Postlude

Dietrich Buxtehude

“Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort”

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 **Joanna Robertson**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is “Caged Bird” from *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?* by Maya Angelou.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from *Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All* by Scotty McClennan.

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

“We Shall Overcome” is sung by the Covenant singers.

“The Church of Christ in Every Age” text is by Fred Pratt Green and sung by the Covenant singers.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Thaddeus Gamory.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Peter Gomes.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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

You can view last week's adult education on the Hindu caste system [here](#).

Announcements

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

Calendar

Sun. June 7	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. June 8	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, Zoom Meeting
Wed. June 10	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting, Zoom Meeting
Wed. June 10	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. June 11	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. June 11	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. June 11	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Friday, June 12	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

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.

Newsletter: To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to 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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