



*A Service of Worship for
14 June 2020*

“The gospel of Jesus is not a rational concept to be explained in a theory of salvation,
but a story about God’s presence in Jesus’ solidarity with the oppressed,
which led to his death on the cross.

What is redemptive is the faith that God snatches victory out of defeat,
life out of death,
and hope out of despair.”

-James H. Cone, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Adagio” from Symphonie V

Charles Marie Widor

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**In a fractured age,
when cynicism is god,
here is a possible heresy:
we live by stories,
we also live in them.
One way or another
we are living the stories
planted in us early
or along the way,
or we are also living
the stories we planted –
knowingly or unknowingly –
in ourselves.
We live stories that either
give our lives meaning
or negate it with meaninglessness.
If we change the stories we live by,
quite possibly we change our lives.**

Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

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

**We have important work.
But none of us can do this work alone.
As much as we need constructive self-examination
and critical dialogue, we need each other.**

**We may never come to think alike
or to act alike. I hope not.
But by participating in each other's faith journeys,
by reaching out to each other and sharing in the struggles
to name and claim our theologies,
we can strengthen our public prophetic voice
and deepen our sense of community
and our commitment to a shared faith tradition.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Hannah Rice

“Make Me an Instrument”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn

Slane

“God of the Women”

**God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.**

**God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.**

**God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.**

**God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.**

**O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.**

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**We join the struggle of those hurting.
And we commit every breath to work, march, fight, vote, and organize
in order to breathe life into the promise of the
establishment of justice,
provision for the common defense,
promotion of the general welfare,
and the assurance of domestic tranquillity and equal protection under the law.
Because we are yet alive and breathing, yet free to stand up,
we commit ourselves to this work with every breath we have.
With every breath we have, we make this declaration to fast from apathy.
Everybody has a right to live.
With every breath we have, we declare:
Somebody's hurting our brothers and our sisters.
It's gone on far too long, and we won't be silent any more.**

*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

**Our story is one that explores what happens
when, in the face of any circumstance,
we choose to have faith.**

**Ours is the story of learning to have faith
in our own innate goodness and capacity to love.**

**Ours is the story of seeing past
the apparent randomness of happenings
to uncover layers and layers of connection.**

**Ours is the story of knowing,
even in the midst of great suffering,
that we are not cast out and alone.**

Benediction

Postlude

Johann Pachelbel

“Toccata in E minor”

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 **Pat Martin**.

The Call to Worship is from “*The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*” by Marcus Borg.

The Opening Sentences are by Ben Okri.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Faith without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the 21st Century* by Paul Rasor.

“Make Me an Instrument” is sung by Dana Rice Guidroz, soprano.

“God of the Women” text is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Litany for Moral Monday National Day of Fasting and Focus” created by the Poor People's Campaign.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience* by Sharon Salzberg.

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

You can view our recorded adult education on the Hindu caste system [here](#).

Announcements

Saturday, June 20 - we will hold a gathering in prayer, commitment, and solidarity with the Poor People's Campaign. Find out more about how to join and what the campaign stands for online here: <https://www.covenanthouston.org/a-call-to-action.html>.

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

Calendar

Sun. June 14	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. June 15	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, Zoom Meeting
Mon. June 15	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Zoom Meeting
Tues. June 16	11:00 a.m.	Kid's Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. June 17	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting, Zoom Meeting
Wed. June 17	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. June 18	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. June 18	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. June 19	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, Zoom Meeting
Sat. June 20	7:00 p.m.	Gathering in Solidarity, Covenant Church labyrinth

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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