



*A Service of Worship for  
21 June 2020*

**May we recognize the Spirit  
in each of us, and the Spirit  
in all of us.**

*from Ram Dass in "Prayers for a Thousand Years"*

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Invention No. 1 in C major”

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

<sup>+</sup>Opening Sentences

**We gather to bear witness  
to the sanctity, dignity, and equality  
of human beings  
and the value of all life  
in the universe.**

**We gather to celebrate  
that we welcome people  
of every racial and ethnic heritage,  
all sexual orientations and identities,  
and all faith perspectives  
to our Christian community.**

**We gather to create a place  
where every person in community  
can worship God  
and respond to the divine call  
in her or his own understanding  
of the love that encompasses us all.**

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 10:26-31

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

**For all times when we have assumed  
we are self-sufficient and independent,  
free to be and do,  
not be and not do,  
what we wanted, when we wanted, how we wanted,  
forgive us.**

**For all times when we have assumed  
we are inadequate and unqualified,  
hampered by our inability to  
do anything, say anything, or change anything  
that would make any real difference,  
forgive us.**

**If ever we forget that  
each of us is gifted with insight and ability,  
or fail to remember that  
we are all in need,  
and we are all needed,  
forgive us and make us free. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Joachim Stutschewsky

“Besarabic” from Hassidic Suite

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**The central task of the religious community  
is to unveil the bonds that bind us to each other.  
There is a connectedness,  
a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our lives  
and the lives of others.  
Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.**

**It is the church that assures us  
that we are not struggling for justice on our own,  
but as members of a larger community.  
The religious community is essential,  
For alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen,  
And our strength too limited to do all that must be done.  
Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.**

\*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

**These things we affirm:**

**The spirit of God moves among us, binding us in covenant with faithful people of every time and place.  
The spirit moves within us, empowering us to proclaim the gospel to all people.  
The spirit moves through us, making us channels of God's love.**

Benediction

Postlude

J.S. Bach

“Invention No. 13 in A 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 **Daniel Sanborn**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is by Walter Royal Jones, Jr. in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Hymnal.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from and inspired by the weekly order of worship.

The Unison Confession is by Jay Leach.

“Besarabic” is played by **Susan Wegner**, cello, and Karen Kline, piano.

The Prayer of Dedication is a reading by Mark Morrison-Reed in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Hymnal.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Flames of the Spirit*, edited by Ruth C. Duck

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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

Adult Education recorded education sessions will be made available on this page:

<https://www.covenanthouston.org/adult-education-recordings.html>.

This week Bob Tucker, member of Covenant, retired Congregational/United Church minister, and former executive director of the Foundation for Contemporary Theology, has a presentation on “The invention of Christianity.” This will be added to the Worship page for June 21 as well as the above Adult Education Recording link.

Elementary Sunday school recordings can be found on this page:

<https://www.covenanthouston.org/sunday-school.html>.

We will continue to add videos as they become available.

## **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 21	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. June 22	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a> <i>Dear White Christian</i> initial meeting
Wed. June 24	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Wed. June 24	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. June 25	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. June 25	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. June 25	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Fri. June 26	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*

*4949 Caroline Street*

*Houston, Texas 77004*

*713-668-8830*

*[office@covenanthouston.org](mailto:office@covenanthouston.org)*

*[www.covenanthouston.org](http://www.covenanthouston.org)*

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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.*