



*A Service of Worship for
28 June 2020*

Toward the end of an interview of
Maya Angelu by Diane Rheam, Diane Rheam took a few callers.
One caller said, “My question is just about your advice for forgiveness.
You describe these terribly hard things from your childhood,
but you're able to forgive in such a beautiful poetic way really.
What would you advise for other people?”

Maya Angelu responded,
“Well, one of the things is I've changed that word
to make it two words and turn it around to give for.
So if I have someone who has embarrassed me
or broken a promise to me
or betrayed me
or in any way hurt my feelings
I will find something,
a bag of potatoes, a bag of onions and a roast and give it to a needy family.
And I say I'm giving this for Joe who hurt my feelings.
And somehow I'm free.
I'm not carrying Joe around on my back.
I'm not tugging him along everywhere I go.
He's not making me look old and tired and weird.
I'm free of him.
I have given for him.
I don't know where I got that, but that's what I do.”

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Drum Duet”

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**“It is a terrible fight
and it is between two wolves.
One is evil – he is anger,
envy, sorrow, regret,
greed, arrogance, self-pity,
guilt, resentment, inferiority,
lies, false pride, superiority and ego.”**
He continued, **“The other is good – he is joy,
peace, love, hope,
serenity, humility, kindness,
benevolence, empathy, generosity,
truth, compassion, and faith.
The same fight is going on inside you –
and inside every other person too.”**
The grandson thought about it for a minute
and then asked his grandfather,
“Which wolf will win?”
The old Cherokee simply replied,
“The one you feed.”

Scripture Lesson

Romans 6:12-23

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

**True reconciliation is based on forgiveness,
and forgiveness is based on true confession,
and confession is based on penitence,
on contrition, on sorrow for what you have done.
Forgiveness, gives us the capacity to make a new start.
That is the power, the rationale, of confession and forgiveness.
It is to say, "I have fallen but I am not going to remain there.
Please forgive me." And forgiveness is the grace
by which you enable the other person to get up,
and get up with dignity, to begin anew.
Not to forgive leads to bitterness and hatred,
which, just like self-hatred and self-contempt,
gnaw away at the vitals of one's being.
Whether hatred is projected out or projected in,
it is always corrosive of the human spirit.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Thomas Avinger

"The Covenant Hymn"

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**We have to choose
what kind of peace
we will seek
and work for.**

*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 quality of human life on our planet
is nothing more than the sum total
of our daily interactions with one another.
Each time we help, and each time we harm,
we have a dramatic impact on our world.**

**Because we are human, some of our interactions will go wrong,
and then we will hurt or be hurt, or both.
It is the nature of being human, and it is unavoidable.**

**Forgiveness is the way we set those interactions right.
It is the way mend tears in the social fabric.
It is the way we stop our human community from unraveling.**

Benediction

Postlude

J.S. Bach

“Lamb of God”

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 **Brook Ward**.

The prelude is played by **Hank Bond** and **Mac Wells**, drums.

The Call to Worship is “What To Tell The Children” by Rachel Kann.

The Opening Sentences is a Cherokee teaching.

The Unison Confession is by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

“The Covenant Hymn” text by Vassar Miller, **Joyce Courtois**, alto.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Dorothee Sölle.

The Affirmation of Faith is Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

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>.

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

One of the most important and influential books written in the 21st century about the injustices of racism, particularly as manifest in the criminal justice system and the War on Drugs, is legal scholar and civil rights activist Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. It spent 250 weeks on the New York Times Best Sellers list after its publication in 2010. In October 2012, Alexander spoke at Houston's Progressive Forum. Not long after that, the Adult Education class showed videos of this speech over two successive Sundays. Given the current intense discussion and worldwide protests of racial injustice, we invite you to listen to this powerful presentation and the Q&A that followed by clicking [Progressive Forum presents Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow.](#)

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 28	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. June 29	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, <u>Zoom Meeting</u> <i>Dear White Christian</i>
Tues. June 30	3:00 p.m.	Kid's Corner, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Wed. July 1	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Wed. July 1	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Thur. July 2	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Thur. July 2	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Fri. July 3	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>

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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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.