



*A Service of Worship for  
5 July 2020*

"What message have you for young people?"  
asked Carl Stern of NBC  
in concluding a television interview  
with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel  
shortly before his death.  
Rabbi Heschel replied,  
"Let them remember  
that there is a meaning beyond absurdity.  
Let them be sure that every deed counts,  
that every word has power,  
and that we all can do our share  
to redeem the world in spite of  
all absurdities and  
all frustrations and  
all disappointments.  
And above all,  
[let them] remember . . .  
to build a life as if it were a work of art."

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

J.S. Bach

“Er segnet, die den Herrn furchten”  
(God blesses those who fear the Lord)

Call to Worship

†Opening Sentences

**May a good vision catch me.**

**May a benevolent vision take hold of me and move me.**

**May a deep and full vision come over me  
and burst open around me.**

**May a luminous vision inform me, enfold me.**

**May I awaken into the story that surrounds,**

**May I awaken into the beautiful story.**

**May the wondrous story find me.**

**May the wilderness that makes beauty arise between two loves,  
arise beautifully between my body and the body of this land,  
between my flesh and the flesh of this earth,  
here and now, on this day,**

**May I taste something sacred.**

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 2:15-25

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 times when we have assumed  
that we, and we alone, had the right answers,  
certain of our certainty,  
certain of their error,  
talking, not listening, speaking, not hearing,  
forgive us.**

**For times when we have been too timid  
to speak a word of truth we felt,  
afraid of not being heard,  
afraid of being heard,  
listening, not speaking, hearing but silent,  
forgive us.**

**If ever we forget  
that You are present among us,  
in our words,  
in their words,  
in the words we read,  
in the stories we tell,  
and ours is but the task of discovery,  
forgive us and make us free. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Roeder

“God of the Sparrow”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**Humankind has not woven the web of life.  
We are but one thread in it.  
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.  
All things are bound together.  
All things connect.**

\*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

**To proclaim transformation,  
we are empowered to take back the Scriptures:  
to speak of them and to hear them,  
painfully, angrily, prophetically,  
hopefully, lovingly, and gracefully.**

Benediction

Postlude

Felix Mendelssohn

“Sonata III: Allegro maestoso e vivace”

### **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 **Jeannette Dixon**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is from *How Then Shall I Live* by Wayne Muller.

The Opening Sentences are by David Abram, ecologist and author, as reprinted in *Prayers for a Thousand Years*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Unison Confession is by **Jim Avera**.

“God of the Sparrow” text by Jaroslav J. Vajda; music by Carl Schalk. Karen Kline, piano and members of The Covenant Singers.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Chief Seattle (1854).

The Affirmation of Faith is Rebecca Chop.

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: [Adult Education Recordings](#).

You are invited to watch and discuss *The Strange Demise of Jim Crow* over 2 Sundays; July 12 and July 19. Zoom information will be provided upon request ([jodi@covenanthouston.org](mailto:jodi@covenanthouston.org)) and will also be added to our [Online Gatherings](#) page this week.

Not all the civil rights victories of the '60s were won at the cost of vicious beatings and mass arrests played-out in front of television cameras. **The Strange Demise of Jim Crow** reveals for the first time on film how many Southern cities were desegregated in a quieter, almost stealthy fashion with behind-the-scenes negotiations, secret deals and controversial news black-outs. It makes visible a fascinating case-study of how urban power is really wielded.

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. July 5	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. July 6	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a> <i>Dear White Christian</i>
Wed. July 8	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Wed. July 8	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. July 9	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Thur. July 9	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, <a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Fri. July 10	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*

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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.*