



Artist - Jesus Mafa

*A Service of Worship for
12 July 2020*

The earth is at the same time mother,
she is mother of all that is natural,
mother of all that is human.

She is the mother of all,
for contained in her
are the seeds of all.

The earth of humankind
contains all moistness,
all verdancy,
all germinating power.

It is in so many ways
fruitful.

All creation comes from it.

Yet it forms not only the basic raw materials for humankind,
but also the substance
of the incarnation
of God's son.

- Hildegard of Bingen

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Johann Pachelbel

“Canon in D”

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**To be of the Earth is to know
the restlessness of being a seed
the darkness of being planted
the struggle toward the light
the pain of growth into the light
the joy of bursting and bearing fruit
the love of being food for someone
the scattering of your seeds
the decay of the seasons
the mystery of death and
the miracle of birth.**

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 13:1-23

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

**Sower of living hearts,
sower of tenderness,
sower of courage,
sower of service,
sower of prayer,
sower of light.
God, sow within us.!**

**Sower of gifts,
sower of forgiveness,
sower of faith,
sower of joy,
sower of life,
sower of the Beatitudes.
God, sow in the hearts of all people!**

**Even if we are hard as stones,
be patient with us!
Your Good News will manage to slip
between the tight cracks in our rock and will
grow into giant sheaves of Good News!**

Words of Assurance

Music

Hal Hopson

“Though I May Speak”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**Don't worry and fret about the crops.
After you have done all you can for them,
let them stand in the weather on their own.

But the real products of any year's work
are the farmer's mind and the cropland itself.**

**If he raises a good crop
at the cost of belittling himself
and diminishing the ground,
then he has gained nothing.
He will have to begin
all over again the next spring,
worse off than before.**

**Let him receive the season's
increment into his mind.
Let him work it into the soil.**

**The finest growth that
farmland can produce
is a careful farmer.**

**Make the human race a better head.
Make the world a better piece of ground.**

*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

**In the stilled place that once was a road
going down from the town to the river,
and where the lives of marriages grew
a house, cistern and barn, flowers,
the tilted stone of borders, and the
deeds of their lives ran to neglect,
and honeysuckle and then
the fire overgrew it all,
I walk heavy with seed,
spreading on the cleared hill the beginnings
of green, clover and grass to be pasture.
Between history's death upon the place
and the trees that would have come
I claim, and act, and am mingled
in the fate of the world.**

Benediction

Postlude

Jonathan Stock, ed.

“Bamboo Stem and Jasmine Flower”
from Two Folk Tales from Southern China

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 **Jacy Grannis**, viola.

The Call to Worship is from “Connections Are Made Slowly” by Marge Piercy.

The Opening Sentences are by John Soos.

The Unison Confession is from *Imaging the Word Vol. 2*, by Charles Singer and Albert Hari.

“Though I May Speak” is sung by The Covenant Singers.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Prayers and Sayings of the Mad Farmer” by Wendell Berry from *Farming: A Handbook*.

The Affirmation of Faith is from “Sowing” by Wendell Berry from *Farming: A Handbook*.

The postlude is played by **Jacy Grannis**, viola.

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) 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.

Credits:

Creator/Executive Producer: Thomas R. Cole

Director: David Berman

Co-producer/Editor: William Howze

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 12	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
		Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. July 13	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
		<i>Dear White Christian</i>
Tue. July 14	3:00 p.m.	Kids' Corner via Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Wed. July 15	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Thur. July 16	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Thur. July 16	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, <u>Zoom Meeting</u>
Fri. July 17	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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