



Jacob's Ladder art print by Lesley Friedmann

*A Service of Worship for
19 July 2020*

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

“Goldberg Variations: Aria and Variation 1”

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**To worship is to stand in awe
under a heaven of stars,
before a flower, a leaf in sunlight,
or a grain of sand.**

**To worship is to be silent, receptive,
before a tree astir with the wind,
or the passing shadow of a cloud.**

**To worship is to work with dedication and with skill;
it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music.**

**To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the earth;
it is to listen through a storm to the still small voice within.**

**Worship is a loneliness seeking communion;
it is a thirsty land crying out for rain.**

**Worship is a kindred fire within our hearts;
it moves through deeds of kindness and through acts of love.**

**Worship is the mystery within us
reaching out to the mystery beyond.**

**It is an inarticulate silence yearning to speak;
it is the window of the moment open to the sky of the eternal.**

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 28:10-19

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

**So often we imagine that life's depths are out there –
or in there – somewhere far away,
and that the distance is immeasurable.
Yet life is not out there;
that's only where we've erected the altars.
Life is right here – as close as our breathing,
as close as the pulsing vein in our necks,
as close as our dreaming.
So let us open our eyes.
Open our ears.
Open our hearts.
And know that God.
is in this very place.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Katherine K. Davis

“Our God Is a Rock”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,

Though the earth should change,
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, The dominions totter.
God utters God's voice,
The earth melts.
The God of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob and Rachel and Leah is our refuge.**

***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

**We summon ourselves from the delights and demands of the daily round
from the dirty dishes and unwaxed floors,
from unmowed grass and untrimmed bushes,
from all incompleteness and not-yet-startedness,
from the unholy and the unresolved.**

**We summon ourselves to attend our vision
of peace and justice,
of happiness and health,
of delight and devotion,
of the lovely and the holy,
of who we are and what we can do.**

**We would open our eyes,
our ears,
our minds,**

**our hearts,
to the amplest dimensions of life.**

We rejoice in the manifold possibilities.

Benediction

Postlude

Maurice Ravel

“Sonatine: Mouvement de Menuet”

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 **Moses Mason**.

The prelude is played by **Parker Ward**, piano.

The Call to Worship is from Ann Weems.

The Opening Sentences are by Jacob Trapp reprinted in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Simply Pray: A Modern Spiritual Practice to Deepen Your Life* by Erik Walker Wikstrom.

“Our God Is a Rock” is sung by The Covenant Singers.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Psalm 46.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from Gordon McKeeman in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The postlude is played by Carl McAlily, piano.

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 conclusion of the movie, “The Strange Demise of Jim Crow” on 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

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| Sun. July 19 | 9:00 a.m. | Worship Online Adult Education via Zoom |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Facebook Live coffee time |
| Mon. July 20 | 1:00 p.m. | Book Club, <u>Zoom Meeting</u> <i>Dear White Christian</i> |
| Mon. July 20 | 7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting, <u>Zoom Meeting</u> |
| Wed. July 22 | 7:00 p.m. | Covenant Singers, <u>Zoom Meeting</u> |
| Thur. July 23 | 10:00 a.m. | Community Group, <u>Zoom Meeting</u> |
| Thur. July 23 | 5:30 p.m. | Youth Group, <u>Zoom Meeting</u> |
| Thur. July 23 | 8:00 p.m. | Community Group, <u>Zoom Meeting</u> |
| Fri. July 24 | 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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