



*A Service of Worship for
26 July 2020*

Bakerwoman God,
I am your living bread.
Strong, brown Bakerwoman God,
I am your low, soft, and being-shaped loaf.

I am your rising bread,
well-kneaded by some divine
and knotty pair of knuckles,
by your warm earth hands.
I am bread well-kneaded.

Alla Renee Bozarth

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Charles Peery

“Londonderry Gardens”

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**Though the parables and sayings of Jesus
are in continuity with the Hebrew Scriptures and,
specifically, with the promise of a coming Kingdom of God,
there is something about them
that can only be described as radical.
They call our world, the here-and-now world
in which we live, into question.
They stand us before the coming of an
inexplicably different social order.
As such, they are full of hope and,
at the same time,
the unnerving threat of change.**

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 13:31-35; 44-50

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

**The truth is not a matter
of elaborating the details of a parable
but of making God's nearness visible;**

**God can be seen in everyday life,
beside the bread trough.
Jesus wants to open people's eyes to this.**

**The work of women and men,
work for life,
is transparent to God's work.**

**Such an image may sharpen our gaze
to what is work for human life
and what is not—
and what that has to do with God.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Pelz

Walter

“Show Me Thy Ways”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**We recognize that the Kingdom of God
is somehow accessible within each of us.
We encourage each other
to take care of our own spiritual lives
as well as to reach out to others.
We accept the strong ethical requirements
of the inward kingdom
seeking outward incarnation.**

*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

**If the Kingdom of God is within you,
then everywhere you go
you should leave a little heaven behind.
People will know you to be a heaven leaver.
You can learn to love your crooked neighbor
with your crooked heart
because you're connected to a power and grace
greater than your ego.**

Benediction

Postlude

Dean Wagner

“Carillon”

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 The Bayou City Bells, **David Lee**, director.

The Call to Worship is from *Ode to Bread* by Pablo Neruda.

The Opening Sentences are by *David Buttrick (adapted)*.

The Unison Confession is adapted from “God in Everyday Life: The Parables” in *Jesus of Nazareth* by Dorothee Soelle and Louise Schottroff.

“Show Me Thy Ways” is sung by The Covenant Singers, **Heather Laureles**, clarinet.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from and inspired by *Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All* by Scott McClennan.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Hope on a Tightrope: Words and Wisdom* by Cornel West.

The postlude is played by The Bayou City Bells, **David Lee**, director.

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

Adult Education recorded education sessions will be made available on this page: [Adult Education Recordings](#).

Sunday, July 26 at 10am David Ramsey will share his spiritual journey. Join us via Zoom; the log in details are located on our [Online Gatherings](#) page. You can contact Susan Wegner with any questions.

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 26	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. July 27	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, Zoom Meeting <i>Dear White Christian</i>
Tue. July 28	3:00 p.m.	Kids' Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. July 29	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 30	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 30	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. July 31	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

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.