



*A Service of Worship for
2 August 2020*

May the anger of Christ be mine,
When the world grows hard and greedy;
when the rich have no care for the poor,
when the powerful take from the needy.

May the compassion of Christ be mine,
when the outstretched hand's not taken,
when the jobless stand in line,
when the lonely live forsaken.

May the love of Christ be mine
for the anguished, for the ailing,
for the frail, disabled life,
for the fallen, for the failing.

May the actions of Christ be mine,
bringing hope, bringing new direction;
making peace in a warring time,
offering welcome, not rejection.

Colin Gibson

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Josef Rheinberger

“Cantilene” from Sonata No. 11 in B minor

Call to Worship

+Opening Prayer

**The Hand transforms nature,
and brings bread to the table.
The rain along the road,
transforms grapes into wine.
And God makes Godself into food,
and gives life for all children.**

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 14:14-21

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

**Gracious God,
who made the covenant promise with our ancestors,
we gather here today a rebellious people.**

**We want to act out your intentions for us,
but we keep getting mixed up
by all the glitter of the world around us.**

**You tell us to honor creation,
and we use other people and animals and plant life
only to meet our wants.**

**You offer daily bread to every living creature,
and we steal that bread from our brothers and sisters
in the name of our greed.**

**You promise us new life,
and we shrink back from it in fear.**

**Heal us, God, lest we destroy ourselves.
We need your presence among us. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Silent Reflection

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**O God,
open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
open my ears that I may hear their cries;
open my heart so that they need not be without succor'**

**let me not be afraid to defend the weak
because of the anger of the strong,
let me not be afraid to defend the poor
because of the anger of the rich.**

**Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
and use me to bring them to those places.**

**And so open my eyes and my ears
that I may this coming day
be able to do some work of peace for you. Amen.**

*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.***

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

You are welcome to use whatever elements you have for communion this Sunday.

Music

Lloyd Pfautch

“Eternal Grace”

+Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God is present in the night before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.
We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action,
into vulnerability and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used
by the Spirit for God’s new community of hope. Amen.**

Benediction

Postlude

Marcel Dupré

“Antiphon: How Fair and Pleasant”

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 **Jay Hooker**.

The banner pictured on the cover was created by **Nancy Henry**.

The Call to Worship is by Huub Oosterhuis.

The Opening Prayer is “The Hand Transforms Nature” by D. Pedro Casaldaliga, Jaci Maraschin, and Milton Nascimento in *Earth and All the Stars: Reconnecting with Nature through Hymns, Stories, Poems, and Prayers from the World’s Great Religions and Cultures*, edited by Anne Rowthorn.

The Unison Confession is from the *U.N. Environmental Sabbath*.

“Eternal Grace” by Lloyd Pfautch is sung by **Shannon Stewart** and **David Lee**, Carl McAliley, organ.

The Prayer of Dedication is a prayer by Alan Paton from *Life Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Affirmation of Faith is from the 2020 Montreat Worship and Music Conference.

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

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

Sunday, August 2, Sarah Winter will give a presentation on therapeutic horseback riding at 10am via Zoom. Zoom links are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website:

<https://www.covenanthouston.org/covenant-gatherings.html>

Announcements

Covenant will be holding smaller groups on Zoom. We will also hold virtual coffee time each Sunday at 11am on Facebook.

Calendar

Sun. Aug 2	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Aug 3	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, Zoom Meeting <i>Dear White Christian</i>
Tue. Aug 4	7:00 p.m.	Inquirer's Class, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Aug 5	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Aug 6	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Aug 6	5:30 p.m.	Youth/Mentor, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Aug 6	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Aug 7	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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