



*A Service of Worship for  
9 August 2020*

You elude all names we give you  
and dwell beyond the grasp of brilliant minds.

Your essence pulses within every atom  
yet extends beyond the far frontiers of space,  
unscanned by the strongest telescopes.

Awaken me to your presence,  
now, this moment,  
in my heart.

Edward Hays

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Robert Schumann

“Traumerei” from Scenes from Childhood

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**Hope begins in the dark,  
the stubborn hope  
that if you just show up  
and try to do the right thing,  
the dawn will come.  
You wait and watch  
and work: you don't give up.**

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 32:3-31

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

**This season we dedicate ourselves  
to wrestling with our shadows  
conversing with our ‘other’ voices  
and meeting our inner adversaries  
that we might wrest from them a blessing  
for ourselves and our world.**

Words of Assurance

Silent Reflection

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**I cannot release the questions;  
with every step they multiply,  
and yet  
they carry a wisdom  
of their own.  
God of mystery,  
help me  
to hold the questions,  
lead me  
to live them,  
bless me  
to bless them  
for disturbing  
my path.**

\*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.*

Music

Erik Routley

“Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”

+Affirmation of Faith

**True faith means  
you are not looking  
for a quick fix  
or a victory overnight.  
You do the right thing  
regardless of the consequence –  
because you want to be  
a decent and compassionate person  
before you die!**

Benediction

Postlude

Ludwig van Beethoven

“Adage Cantabile” from Pathetique Sonata

### **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 Call to Worship is by **Vassar Miller**.

The Opening Sentences are by Anne Lamott.

The Unison Confession is by Jeremy Rutledge.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Night Visions* by Jan L. Richardson.

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

“Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown” is sung by **Eric Avera**, Tenor.

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

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

This Sunday, August 9, Bob Tucker will present Part 2 of his talk on The Invention of Christianity. This is a follow-on to his June 21 presentation. 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 9	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Aug 10	1:00 p.m.	Book Club, Zoom Meeting <i>Dear White Christian</i>
Tue. Aug 11	3:00 p.m.	Kids' Corner
Tue. Aug 11	7:00 p.m.	Inquirer's Class, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Aug 12	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Aug 13	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Aug 13	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Aug 14	1:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom

## 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.*