



*A Service of Worship for  
30 August 2020*

Remember me?  
I am the girl with the dark skin  
whose shoes are thin.  
I am the girl with rotted teeth.  
I am the dark rotten-toothed girl  
with the wounded eye and the melted ear.

I am the girl  
holding their babies  
cooking their meals  
sweeping their yards  
washing their clothes.  
Dark and rotting and wounded, wounded.

I would give  
to the human race only hope.  
I am the woman  
with the blessed dark skin.  
I am the woman  
with the teeth repaired.  
I am the woman  
with the healing eye the ear that hears.

I am the woman: Dark repaired, healed.  
Listening to you.  
I would give  
to the human race only hope.

I am the woman offering two flowers  
whose roots are twin Justice and Hope  
Let us begin.

- Alice Walker

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Girolamo Frescobaldi

“Toccata in G major”

Call to Worship

+Opening Prayer

**Eternal God of all peoples and races,  
may all your children learn to live together  
in peace and friendship.**

**Let the day come when oppression, terrorism,  
discrimination and prejudice will be forgotten,  
and all the world filled with your spirit.**

**May that day come soon, O God;  
the day foretold by the prophets and sages,  
the day for which we long,  
when all humanity will recognize that it is one family.**

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

African-American Spiritual, arr. Melva W.

Costen

"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"

Time for Children

Back to School Blessing

+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

**Forgive us when we live vicariously, O God,  
when we let others show our outrage,  
let others experience what should be our own excitement and fear,  
let others pay the price of loving while we watch.**

**For all the ways in which we think knowing about something is enough, forgive us.  
For all the ways in which we let glib and radical talk suffice rather than exploring  
the pain and grief in our hearts and in our world with integrity, forgive us.**

**For all the ways in which we burden our sisters and brothers with our curiosity and  
deny them our concern, forgive us.**

**We pray through him who always not only saw but also moved out in passion  
to the lonely and the pained--and healed them. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Filippino Folk Tune, arr. Jane Marshall

“Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**May I be at peace, more patient with myself.  
Let me live within the questions that promise no answers  
but only signal the mystery that gave them birth.  
Let me turn from every pettiness of the heart,  
willing to see and accept that the world does not revolve around me.  
Let the grief, the pain, and the nameless trouble that overcomes me  
also open me to feel what others have felt.**

\*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

**You're thinking of revolution  
as a great all-or-nothing.  
I think of it as one more morning  
in a muggy cotton field,  
checking the undersides of leaves  
to see what's been there,  
figuring out what to do  
that won't clear a path  
for worse problems next week.**

**Right now that's what I do.  
You ask why I'm not afraid  
of loving and losing,  
and that's my answer.**

**The daily work--that goes on, it adds up.  
It goes into the ground, into crops,  
into children's bellies  
and their bright eyes.  
Good things don't get lost.**

**Here's what I've decided:  
the very least you can do in your life  
is to figure out what you hope for.  
And the most you can do  
is live inside that hope.**

**Not admire it from a distance  
but live right in it, under its roof.  
What I want is so simple  
I almost can't say it:  
elementary kindness.**

**Enough to eat,  
enough to go around.  
The possibility that kids  
might one day grow up  
to be neither the destroyer  
nor the destroyed.**

Benediction

Postlude

J. S. Bach

“O Lamb of God”

### **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 **Jeff Nobles**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is “Kindness” by Naomi Shihab Nye.

The Opening Prayer is adapted from *Gates of Prayer*, The New Union Prayer Book, Central Conference of American Rabbis.

“When Israel was in Egypt’s Land” is sung by The Covenant Singers with Patrick Parker, piano.

The Unison Confession is from a Covenant Order of Worship, November 12, 1978.

“Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day” is sung by **Joyce Courtois**, alto; Carl McAliley, piano.

The Prayer of Dedication is by George Kimmich Beach in the 1997 Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Worship Materials Collection.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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

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

Adult Education this Sunday will feature Meheryar Rivetna, a member of Houston's Zoroastrian community. Meheryar's presentation will begin with Zoroastrian theology/principles giving the audience an understanding of Zarathustra's basic teachings. The second part will cover the influence of the Zoroastrian religion of Judaism/Christianity and on Western thought. In the last part he will talk about the role Zoroastrians played in India seeking refuge there from religious persecution in Iran. This portion will be non-religious mainly covering their contributions.

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 30	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Aug 31	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Sept 2	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Sept 3	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Sept 3	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Sept 4	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.*