



*A Service of Worship for
6 September 2020*

Now I wanted to say something about the fact that we have lived over these last two or three summers with agony and we have seen our cities going up in flames.

And I would be the first to say that I am still committed to militant, powerful, massive, non-violence as the most potent weapon in grappling with the problem from a direct action point of view. I'm absolutely convinced that a riot merely intensifies the fears of the white community while relieving the guilt.

And I feel that we must always work with an effective, powerful weapon and method that brings about tangible results. But it is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots.

It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention.

And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the negro poor has worsened over the last twelve or fifteen years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met.

And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

“Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul”

Call to Worship

†Opening Sentences

**Loving God, our many interconnections
draw us close to others and to the whole created order;
and thus we may both care for
or unwittingly oppress our neighbors and our world.
Help us to be mindful of these potentials;
encourage our acts of compassion;
grant us the grace of loving community.
Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 2:11-3:12

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

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

**Holy God,
Open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit
upon us, within us, among us.**

**For our apathy in the presence of oppression,
Forgive us.**

**If we have contributed to the brokenheartedness of anyone,
Forgive us.**

**For our participation in systems that enslave,
Forgive us.**

**When we are deaf to your good news,
Have mercy and open our ears.**

**When our mouths remain too tightly closed,
Loosen our lips with songs of praise.**

**Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive our sins.
*Hold us in your mercy, now and forever. Amen.***

Words of Assurance

Music

Robert Norman

“I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Invitation

†Prayer of Dedication

**In a world rich with plentiful resources,
In a world where neighbors are hungry, poor and powerless,
In a world where our brothers and sisters demand both bread and justice,
Help us to give ourselves in love.**

**You have called your church to echo the voice of the poor,
You have called us to speak out against oppression and injustice,
You have called us to give and work for the liberation of all humankind.**

**You are the God who makes all things new;
You are the God of hope who calls us to have courage and faith;
Help us to give ourselves in love.**

*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

**Equity must be the norm.
We must look for ways to narrow the economic gap
every chance we get.**

**While everybody else is backing up
and the gap keeps widening,
the Christian church along with other faith traditions
must come forward and impact this nation's consciousness.**

Benediction

Postlude

“Largo” from Sonata in G Minor

Frederic Chopin

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Jeff Nobles**.

David Kline is the guest proclaimer. David is a former attendee of Covenant and a current professor at the University of Tennessee in the Religious Studies Department. He is the son of Bill and Karen Kline who are soon to become members of our Covenant community.

The Call to Worship is by James H. Cone from *God of the Oppressed*.

The Opening Sentences are from *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*, edited by Michael Schut.

“Here I Am, Lord” led by The Covenant Singers.

The Unison Confession is by an unknown author, based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.

“I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger” by Robert Norman is sung by The Covenant Singers.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from a Corrymeela Worship Book.

The adapted Affirmation of Faith is by James Forbes, from *Whose Gospel? A Concise Guide to Progressive Protestantism*.

The postlude is played by **Susan Wegner**, cello and Patrick Parker, piano.

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

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

On September 6 & 13 Adult Education will be on “Taking the Bible Seriously” and “Thinking Theologically” respectively, led by Jackie Rundstein and Ben Ball. These are two lessons from the curriculum of Living the Questions: <https://livingthequestions.com/>. You will find it extremely helpful to have reviewed the Session Guide found [HERE](#) for the first class.

We will start by viewing a 20-minute DVD by contributors including such luminaries as John Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, and Helen Prejean. This will be followed by a guided conversation responding to their presentations. We will start promptly at 10AM via Zoom and conclude in plenty of time for the participants to join the virtual coffee time at 11AM.

Transcripts will be available which will be helpful in following the DVD presentations. These materials, together with bios of the contributors will be on the [Adult Education Recordings page](#) or from Ben at benball@alum.mit.edu. The Zoom log-in details are located on our [Online Gatherings page](#). Contact Susan Wegner susan@tswegner.net or Ben with any questions.

- Ben Ball & Susan Wegner

Zoom links and materials 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. Sept 6	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Sept 7	LABOR DAY	
Tue. Sept 8	4:30 p.m.	Kids' Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Sept 9	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Sept 10	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Sept 10	5:30 p.m.	Youth/Mentor, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Sept 10	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Sept 11	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.

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.