



*A Service of Worship for
20 September 2020*

The quality of human life on our planet
is nothing more than the sum total
of our daily interactions with one another.

Each time we help,
and each time we harm,
we have a dramatic impact on our world.

Because we are human,
some of our interactions will go wrong,
and then we will hurt or be hurt,
or both.

It is the nature of being human,
and it is unavoidable.

Forgiveness is the way we set those interactions right.

It is the way mend tears in the social fabric.

It is the way we stop our human community from unraveling.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

George Gershwin

“Prelude No. 2”

Call to Worship

†Opening Sentences

**We do not need to wait many decades
to realize reconciliation and forgiveness.
We need a wake-up call now
in order not to allow hatred
to overwhelm our hearts.**

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 16:2-15 and Matthew 18:21-35

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

†Response:

Hymn to Joy

*Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**To all that is sacred
We confess--
our readiness to celebrate what sets us apart,
and our reticence to acknowledge what we share with others.
We admit--
being content with what makes us comfortable,
and being afraid of what calls us to change.**

**We own up to--
our attentiveness to the faults and hypocrisies of others,
and our avoidance of our own weaknesses and shortcomings.
We ask for--
the grace of forgiveness,
and the courage to change.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Felix Mendelssohn

“God Watching Over Israel”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn

“What Does the Lord Require”

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**I dream a world where human
No other will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom’s way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every human is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head,
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all humankind**

*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

**Justice is the social form of compassion.
As the social form of compassion,
justice is about politics,
not in the modern sense of electoral politics,
but in the sense suggested by the root of the English word.
It comes from the Greek word polis,
which means "city."
Politics is about the shape and shaping,
the structure and the structuring of the city,
and by extension,
of human communities more generally,
ranging from the family to society as a whole.
As such, justice is the political form of compassion,
the social form of love."**

Benediction

Postlude

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"Andante" from Sonata No.16 in C Major

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Linda Phenix**.

The prelude is played by **Charlotte Bowman Bowers**, piano.

The Call to Worship is by Brad Aaron Modlin from "What You Missed That Day You Were Absent from Fourth Grade."

The Opening Sentences are by Thich Nhat Hanh.

"What Does the Lord Require" is led by The Covenant Singers.

The Unison Confession is by Jay Leach.

"God Watching Over Israel" by The Covenant Singers is from November 11, 2019.

The Prayer of Dedication is "*I Dream A World*", poem by Langston Hughes.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Marcus Borg.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, piano.

Education 9:00 - 9:40 a.m.

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

9:00 a.m: Bob Tucker: **Saved. Again. And Again.**

Aspects of human sexuality misused does pop up in the news. More recently has been — Jeffrey Epstein’s island, human trafficking in Houston, revenge porn, and the sexual abuse of children in the Roman Catholic Church, Southern Baptists churches and the Boy Scouts. For adults, one poll discovered that at least 75% of respondents said that infidelity was “always wrong,” So have we changed that much? Yet, for the most part, our society ignores what is happening and reflects the hushed attitude of the Victorian era.

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website:

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

Announcements

Sundays, September 20 and 27, we will be conducting worship a little different on these days. Please log into Zoom at 10:00 AM those two Sundays to worship together. When worship ends we will transition directly to coffee time using Zoom. For coffee time will use Zoom breakout rooms for small group discussions. While we hope to see you in worship these two Sundays, you will still be able to access the worship website at any time to watch individual videos of each element of worship or the whole worship service video. We will not have facebook coffee time these two Sundays. Zoom details will be on the Online Gatherings page: <https://www.covenanthouston.org/covenant-gatherings.html>. This link will also be provided in the Sunday email and on the worship page. A password will be required. If you need help with your password, please email office@covenanthouston.org.

Sunday schedule for September 20 and 27:

9:00 - Adult Education with Zoom

10:00 - Worship together with Zoom

11:00 - Transition from worship to coffee time with Zoom

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

Calendar

Sun. Sept 20	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Time via Zoom
Mon. Sept 21	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Tue. Sept. 22	4:30 p.m.	Kids' Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Sept 23	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Sept 24	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Sept 24	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Sept 25	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

4949 Caroline Street

Houston, Texas 77004

713-668-8830

office@covenanthouston.org

www.covenanthouston.org

Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun.

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.