



*A Service of Worship for
11 October 2020*

You are a fire, ever burning and never consumed.
You are a light, ever shining and never fading.
You are goodness beyond all goodness, beauty beyond all beauty,
wisdom beyond all wisdom.

Catherine of Siena

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Johann Pachelbel

“Verset No.1 on the Magnificat”

Call to Worship

†Opening Sentences

The spirit is breathing.

**All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
detect a coming dawn;
a reason to go on.**

**They seem small, these signs of dawn,
perhaps ridiculous.**

**All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
uncover in the night
a certain gleam of light;
they see the reason to go on.**

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 5:1-16

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

Holy Wisdom:

**We want to walk the path of generosity
but something holds us back.**

We are fearful;

**we don't know how much money we will need
how much money we can spare.**

You invite us to faithful living.

Guided by your Spirit,

**confident in your voice showing us the way,
help us to give faithfully, joyfully. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Will Todd

"The Call of Wisdom"

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn #354

African-American Spiritual

"Guide My Feet"

Invitation

Call to Stewardship

+Prayer of Dedication

**Sometimes our light goes out,
but is blown again into instant flame
by an encounter with another human being.
Each of us owes the deepest thanks
to those who have rekindled this inner light.**

*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

**Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest of truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.**

**To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony
with the Divine--**

**Thus do we covenant with each other
and with God.**

Benediction

Postlude

Johann Pachelbel

"Verset No. 2 on the Magnificat"

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Brooke Longoria**.

The Call to Worship is by Rev. Anna Blaedel.

The Opening Sentences are by Dom Helder Camera, Brazilian bishop.

The Unison Confession is adapted from Leading in Worship Resources in a Mennonite Voice for Ears of All Kinds.

“The Call of Wisdom” is sung by The Covenant Singers (Feb 8, 2016), Fran Avera, directing.

“Guide My Feet” is led by The Covenant Singers and Patrick Parker.

The Stewardship Invitation is given by **Matt Bennett**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Albert Schweitzer.

The Affirmation of Faith is arranged by L. Griswold Williams in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist hymnal.

The picture in the photo at the top of the worship page was drawn by **the Longoria family**.

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

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

The Adult Education class will feature a Baker Institute webinar on *The Age of Addiction: How Bad Habits Became Big Business*, featuring Professor David Courtwright. The addictions to be discussed include, in addition to alcohol and other drugs, food, gambling, video games, and social media. The webinar was moderated by Bill Martin.

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website: <https://www.covenanthouston.org/covenant-gatherings.html>

Announcements

Sunday schedule for October 11:

9:00 - Adult Education with Zoom

10:00 - Worship via videos on the worship website

11:00 - Gather together for coffee time with Zoom

Calendar

Sun. Oct. 11	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Time via Zoom
Wed. Oct. 14	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Oct. 15	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Youth/Mentor Sunday, Zoom Mtg
Thur. Oct. 15	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Oct. 16	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.