



*A Service of Worship for  
18 October 2020*

Fixed heart  
Look  
See hearts  
Who are good  
Who are bad, treats with goodness  
Because  
Truth  
Lives in harmony with Heaven  
Sees everything  
Loves everyone  
All people  
Turned toward

*Alexa Daggett  
(2016 blackout poetry from Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu)*

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Gamer Medley”

Call to Worship

†Opening Sentences

**Welcome to this place of possibility!  
This is love’s hearth, the home of hope,  
a refuge for minds in search of truth unfolding, ever beautiful,  
ever strange.**

**Here, compassion is our shelter,  
freedom, our protection from the storms of bigotry and hate.  
In this place, may we find comfort and courage.  
Here may our sight become vision to see the unseen,  
to glimpse the good that is yet to be.**

Scripture Lesson

Luke 15:11-32

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

**May unity and peace live within us.**

**May wholeness and joy touch our hearts.**

**May kindness and compassion fill our universe  
and reverence fill our days.**

**May we see the light that shines in all.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Slane

“Be Thou My Vision”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Call to Stewardship

<sup>+</sup>Prayer of Dedication

**Thank you for friends.**

**Thank you for video games to cheer up friends who are hurt.**

**Help us to be more creative helpers.**

**When someone falls down and is bleeding, we want to be helpers.**

**To help we want to be brave. Being brave is a way to help.**

**We want to help each other. When someone falls on a scooter we want to help.**

**If friends are sad we want to cheer them up.**

**Thank you for bandaids and medical care for sick.**

**Thank you for doctors.**

**Thank you for friends.**

**Amen**

\*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

**We will need compassion to...**

**Be kind to people**

**To be happy**

**Be brave and welcoming**

**Because we just need it!**

**I will remember to show compassion even when...**

**We are stuck at home**

**They say they don't want to be your friend anymore**

**They won't return the favor**

**The customer is wrong**

**When I love on my poodle.**

Benediction

Postlude

India.Arie

“Strength Courage and Wisdom”

## Worship Notes

- The worship leaders are the children and youth of Covenant. (**Sebastian A., Sterling A., Nora B., Lucas C., Sebastian C., Hannah F., Isaac F., Alaia G. Townes K.-R., Julian L., Rosalie L., Soren L., Louis M., Vee N., Grayson S., Jacob S.-K., Owen S.**)
- The Prelude is "Gamer Medley" **Owen S.** on piano.
- The Call to Worship is by Jay Leech and is read by **Rosalie L.**
- **Jacob S.-K.** reads the scripture.
- **Isaac F.** leads Time for Children.
- "Be Thou My Vision" to the tune Slane, **Sterling A.** on clarinet.
- The Proclamation is given by Covenant's 5th graders: **Nora B., Hannah F., and Alaia G.**
- The Opening Sentences are by Marianne Hachten Cotter in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings for Family, Individual, and Small Group Worship*, edited by Helen Pickett; read by **Louis M.**
- The Confession is given by **Lucas C.**
- The Unison Confession is by Marianne Hachten Cotter in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings for Family, Individual, and Small Group Worship*, edited by Helen Pickett; read by **Sebastian C.**
- The words of assurance were written by the children and youth of Covenant October, 2020 (Nora B., Vee N., Isaac and Hannah F., Owen and Grayson S., Lucas and Sebastian C.); read by **Sebastian C.**
- The Prayer is from Illustrated Ministry's Compassion Camp curriculum from 2020. It is read by **Lucas C., Julian L., Soren L., Louis M., and Owen S.**
- The Invitation was written by Covenant children in 2013 and Grayson S. In 2020; read by **Owen** and **Grayson S.**
- Call to Stewardship is given by **Soren L.**
- The Prayer of Dedication was written by the children at Camp Community, 2016; read by **Sebastian A.**

- The Affirmation of Faith was written by the children and youth of Covenant October, 2020 (Nora B., Vee N., Isaac and Hannah F., Owen and Grayson S., Lucas and Sebastian C.); read by **Townes K.-R.**
- The Benediction is given by **Vee N.**
- The Postlude is “Strength Courage and Wisdom” by India.Arie. From Compassion Camp playlist from Illustrated Ministry. Used on Day 2 of camp focusing on bravery.
- The picture in the photo at the top of the 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.](#)

Travis Hicks and Ginger Clarkson have been conducting meditation sessions as a team at Covenant (pre-COVID era) and now virtually for the past year. This Sunday in Adult Education Travis will discuss the practice of insight or vipassana meditation. We will cover the practicalities of the practice, its benefits and its historical origins. There will be an opportunity and invitation to try a guided meditation. In this time filled with concerns about health and the upcoming election, bathing ourselves in meditation may be one of the healthiest things we can do! Please join us!

The Zoom link is available on the Online Gatherings page on our website:  
<https://www.covenanthouston.org/covenant-gatherings.html>

### **Announcements**

#### **Sunday schedule for October 18:**

- 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. 18	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Time via Zoom
Wed. Oct. 21	5:00 p.m.	Kids’ Corner, Zoom
Wed. Oct. 21	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Oct. 22	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Oct. 22	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Oct. 23	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.*