



*A Service of Worship for
All Saints/All Souls Day
1 November 2020*

We celebrate in the saints
not their piety or perfection
but the fact that we believe in a God
who gets redemptive and holy things done
in this world through, of all things,
human beings, all of whom are flawed.
My spirituality is most active
when I realize God may have gotten
something beautiful done through me
despite the fact that I am [so very human],
and when I am confronted by the mercy
of the gospel so much that I cannot hate my enemies,
and when I am unable to judge the sin of someone else
(which, let's be honest, I love to do)
because my own [stuff] is too much in the way,
and when I have to bear witness
to another human being's suffering
despite my desire to be left alone,
and when I am forgiven by someone
even though I don't deserve it
and my forgiver does this because he, too,
is trapped by the gospel,
and when traumatic things happen in the world
and I have nowhere to place them
or make sense of them but
what I do have is a group of people
who gather with me every week,
people who will mourn and pray with me
when I end up changed by
loving someone I'd never choose out of a catalog
but who teaches me about God's love.

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Johannes Brahms

"O World I Must Now Leave Thee"

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**Those we love and lose
are no longer where they were before.
They are now
wherever we are.**

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 107

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

**When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,**

**examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid, promised walks never taken.**

**And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.**

Words of Assurance

Hymn

Sine Nomine

“For All the Saints”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Music

John Rutter

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Invitation

Music

Ryan McKinny

“You are not alone”

⁺Prayer of Dedication

**In the leaving
in the letting go,
let there be this
to hold onto
at the last:**

**the enduring of love,
the persisting of hope,
the remembering of joy,**

**the offering of gratitude,
the receiving of grace,
the blessing of peace.**

^{*}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

**Hope nonetheless.
Hope despite.
Hope regardless.
Hope still.**

**Hope where we had ceased to hope.
Hope amid what threatens hope.
Hope with those who feed our hope.
Hope beyond what we had hoped.**

**Hope that draws us past our limits.
Hope that defies expectations.
Hope that questions what we have known.
Hope that makes a way where there is none.**

**Hope that takes us past our fear.
Hope that calls us into life.
Hope that holds us beyond death.
Hope that blesses those to come.**

Benediction

Postlude

Johann Pachelbel

"Chaconne in F minor"

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Tonya McKinny**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is “All Souls Day: In The End” by Carola Moosbach.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from St. John Chrysostom.

The Unison Confession is from “When Great Trees Fall” by Maya Angelou.

“The Lord is my Shepherd” is sung by the Covenant Singers November 5, 2017, directed by **Fran Avera**. Thank you to everyone who sent in photos.

"No One Is Alone" from *Into the Woods*, video created by **Ryan McKinny**.

The Prayer of Dedication is “In the Leaving” by Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace*.

The Affirmation of Faith is “Rough Translations” by Jan Richardson.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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

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

“Questions We Have to Face” – John Dominik Crossan

This Sunday Ben Ball and Jackie Rundstein will lead us in an investigation of four questions that John Dominic Crossan addresses to 21 st century Christians. We will hear from Crossan via a clip from “Living the Questions” and then discuss various responses to these questions.

John Dominic Crossan is an Irish-born American theologian and former Roman Catholic priest best known for his association with the Jesus Seminar, an organization of revisionist biblical scholars, and his controversial writings on the historical Jesus and the origins of Christianity.

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 November 1:

9:00 - Adult Education with Zoom

10:00 - Worship via videos on the worship website

11:00 - Gather together for 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. Nov. 1	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Wed. Nov. 4	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov. 5	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov. 5	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Nov. 6	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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