



*A Service of Worship for
15 November 2020*

Never doubt
that a small group
of thoughtful committed citizens
can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

It is never too late to give up our prejudices.

Henry David Thoreau

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour
Silence is kept

Prelude

Denis Bedard

“Plein Jeu” from Suite du Premier Ton

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**This day we pray—
To see the face of all who suffer
To do what we can to take the suffering away
To help convince the world that reconciliation
is doing God’s work with our own hands.**

**This day we pray—
That we may let God’s love lead us from intention to action
From possibility to reality
From scarcity to true abundance.**

Scripture Lesson
3:5-12

Micah

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

**For the labor that is never over,
give us strength.
For the healing that is ever before us,
give us courage.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Vassar Miller

"The Covenant Hymn"

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn

African-American Spiritual

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

Prayer

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**What actions are most excellent?
To gladden the heart of a human being
To feed the hungry
To help the afflicted
To lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful
To remove the wrongs of the injured.
That person is most beloved of God
Who does the most good to God's creatures.**

*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

**Oh sun, moon, stars, our other relatives
peering at us from the inside of god's house
walk with us as we climb into the next century
naked but for the stories we have of each other.
Keep us from giving up in this land of nightmares
which is also the land of miracles.**

Benediction

Postlude

Denis Bedard

“Sortie” from Suite Liturgique

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Joshua Apple**.

The prelude is played by Carl McAliley, organ.

The Call to Worship is by Kathy Huff.

The guest proclaimer is **Jodi Bash**.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from Mary Janet Murray in *Lifting Women's Voices: Prayers to Change the World*, edited by Margaret Rose, Jenny Te Paa, Jeanne Person, and Abigail Nelson.

The Unison Confession is from *Night Visions* by Jan L. Richardson.

“The Covenant Hymn” Words by Vassar Miller, music by Thomas Avinger, Eric Avera, tenor, Patrick Parker, piano.

The Prayer of Dedication is from the prophet Muhammad.

The Affirmation of Faith is from Joy Harjo's poem, “Reconciliation, A Prayer,” in *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems 1975 – 2001*.

The postlude is played by Carl McAliley, organ.

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 session for Sunday, November 15, will be a portion of a Baker Institute Religion and Public Policy Program webinar, "[The Fight to Make American Christian Again: Christian Nationalism in National and Texas Politics.](#)" Christian nationalism — the belief that the U.S. should be an expressly Christian nation governed by biblically-based laws — has become a significant overt force in U.S. politics and religious life. It has influenced the Trump administration's treatment of "religious liberty" and of non-Christians (especially Muslims) and has critical ramifications for church-state separation and the rights of religious minorities. In this webinar, four leading scholars and researchers discussed their recent research on Christian nationalism.

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 15:

- 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. 15	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Nov. 16	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Nov. 18	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov. 19	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov. 19	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov. 19	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri., Nov. 20	1:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Lectionary, Zoom Meeting

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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