



*A Service of Worship for
22 November 2020*

His disciples said to him, “When will the kingdom come?”

Jesus said, “It will not come by waiting for it.

It will not be a matter of saying ‘here it is’ or ‘there it is.’

Rather, the kingdom of the father is spread out upon the earth, and you do not see it.”

The Gospel of Thomas

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour
Silence is kept

Prelude

J.S. Bach

"Nun danket alle Gott"

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**O Thou, whose kingdom is within,
may all thy names be hallowed.
May no one of them be turned against the others
to divide those who address thee.**

**May thy presence be made known to us
in mercy, beauty, love, and justice.
May thy kingdom come to be in the life
of all humankind.
May it come with peace, with sharing,
and in a near time.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
free from all envy and alienation,
broken and blessed in the sharing.**

**Keep us from trespass against others,
and from the feeling that others are
trespassing against us.
Forgive us more than we have forgiven.**

**Deliver us from being tempted by lesser things
to be heedless of the one great thing:
the gift of thyself in us.**

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

**We will be known as a culture that
feared death and adored power,
that tried to vanish insecurity for the few
and cared little for the penury of the many.**

**We will be known as a culture
that taught and rewarded
the amassing of things,
that spoke little, if at all,
about the quality of life
for people, for dogs, for rivers.**

**All the world, in our eyes,
they will say,
was a commodity.**

**And they will say
that this structure
was held together politically,
which it was,
and they will say also
that our politics was no more
than an apparatus to accommodate**

**the feelings of the heart,
and that the heart, in those days,
was small, and hard,
and full of meanness.**

Words of Assurance

Music

J.S. Bach arr. Hal H. Hopson

"O Come Ye to the Waters"

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn

Thaxted

"O Yahweh, Eternal Comforter"

Prayer

Invitation

†Prayer of Dedication

**If the Kingdom of God is within you,
then everywhere you go
you should leave a little heaven behind.
People will know you to be a heaven leaver.
You can learn to love your crooked neighbor
with your crooked heart
because you're connected to a power and grace
greater than your ego.**

*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

**The kingdom of God cometh not with outward show;
neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there!
for behold, the kingdom of God is within you.**

Benediction

Postlude

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

"Nun danket alle Gott"

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Joshua Apple**.

The prelude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

The Call to Worship is adapted from *Man Is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion* by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The Opening Sentences are from Jacob Trapp in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The Unison Confession is from "Of the Empire" in *Red Bird* by Mary Oliver.

"O Come Ye to the Waters" is sung by The Covenant Singers, Fran Avera directing. *from February 4, 2018.*

The words of the hymn, "O Yahweh, Eternal Comforter," are by Jim Avera.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Hope on a Tightrope: Words and Wisdom* by Cornel West.

The Affirmation of Faith is Luke 17: 20-21.

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](#).

Taking Care of Ourselves: Leading to Healing

By Laura Mitchell, EdD

Please join me Sunday morning as we gather together in community. We will talk about ways that we are taking care of ourselves and learn new ways to care through breathing and mindfulness movements. We are a community that takes care of each other and our world around us. In order to continue doing that in these difficult times, we must learn how to take care of ourselves. We need to look inward to ourselves in order to look outward to our community. Be ready to do some simple movements either standing or sitting in a chair. Also, I encourage you to have a journal/paper, pens/markers with you to express your creativity as we move through the process of taking care of ourselves and others.

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 22:

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. 22	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education via Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. Nov. 23	10:30 a.m.	<i>Christmas Pageant Recording</i> , Zoom Meeting - Children & Youth
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Zoom Meeting
Tues. Nov. 24	5:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Pageant Recording</i> , Zoom Meeting - Children & Youth
Wed. Nov. 25	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov. 26	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri., Nov. 27	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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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.