

Education 10:00 - 10:40 a.m.

Adult Education

There will be a Quarterly Business Meeting at 10am in the sanctuary. We will discuss our pride celebration among other topics. All are invited.

Children & Youth Sunday School

The PreK class - Ages 3-Kindergarten will use the Joyful Path curriculum to read the story "Accessing sacred guidance," Proverbs 3:13-18.

Elementary class - Grades 1-5 will use the Joyful Path curriculum to read the story "Accessing sacred guidance," Proverbs 3:13-18. The youth will teach them.

Youth Group - The youth group (grades 6-12) will teach the Elementary class based on the curriculum they developed a few weeks ago. David Ramsey will assist.

Announcements

Sunday, March 8 - There will be a Quarterly Business Meeting in the sanctuary during adult education. Please join us, we will be discussing how Covenant participates in the Pride celebration this June.

Sunday, March 8 - Committee Meetings will take place at noon in Huff Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, March 28 - We will hold an All Church Meeting in Huff Fellowship Hall from 9am to 12:30pm. We will work with a facilitator to discuss the goals and direction of our church. All are welcome.

Sunday, March 29 - Our first all church lunch of 2020 will take place at noon in Huff Fellowship Hall. Sign up and pay in the Narthex. \$10 adults, \$5 children over 3.

Calendar

Sun. Mar. 8	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	C & Y Education
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Quarterly Business Meeting</i>
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Committee Meetings</i>
Thurs. Mar. 5	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Mar. 15	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Education
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Thurs. Mar. 19	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Helpful Information

Childcare: Childcare is provided in the children's area beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Visitor Cards: If you're a visitor with us, please fill out a blue card and place it in the offering plate, or give it to the worship leader or one of our ministers after the service.

Celebrations and Concerns: If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please complete a green Celebration and Concerns card and place it in the offering plate, or give it to the worship leader or a minister after the service.

Membership: If you are interested in learning more about Covenant, we encourage you to talk with one of the ministers or the worship leader.

Newsletter: To subscribe to the newsletter, please send an email request to office@covenanthouston.org.

Office Hours: The church office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Covenant Recycles: If you do not wish to keep your order of worship, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex.

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 & Financial Administrator

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Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun.

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.



***A Service of Worship for
the Second Sunday of Lent
8 March 2020***

*Love is the spirit of this church,
and service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.*

James Vila Blake

Preparing for worship with silence
Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Mystery of the Trinity”
from *The Glorified Bodies*

Olivier Messiaen

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #210

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

St. Anne

+Opening Prayer

**Source of all being,
we turn to You as did our people in ancient days.
They beheld You in the stars,
they felt You in their hearts,
they sought You in their lives.
Now their quest is ours.
Help us, O God, to see the wonder of being.
Give us courage to search for truth.
Teach us the path to a better life.
So shall we, by our lives and labors,
bring nearer to realization the great hope inherited from ages past,
for a world transformed by liberty, justice, and peace.**

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 121

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

(11:00) "We Are the People of God"

Children's Choir

+ Response:

Tallis' Canon

***Go with us, Lord, guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
That in your spirit strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to you.***

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**O God of Freedom,
we are free to love because you are love.
Free us from being hard to love,
hard to forgive, hard to enjoy.
Free us from sitting in the darkness of our despair
rather than standing in the light of your confidence.**

**Free us from grasping for the past
so that we miss the present.
Free us from grasping for the new
before we learn to appreciate the old.
Free us from the way we distort our faith and from
the inconsistencies that mark our lives.
Free us from the fear of change that we may
fight for the changes that are needed.
Free us from the dread of death that
we may live eternal life now.
O God of Freedom, free us to hope as we live
in the hope expressed in Jesus. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music (9:00)

“Adagio”
from Sonata No. 3 in C major

Arcangelo Corelli

(11:00)

Psalm 121

John Ness Beck

Silent reflection

Homily

+Hymn Response #263

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
(Verses 1 & 2)

St. Denio

Homily

+Hymn Response #263

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
(Verses 3 & 4)

St. Denio

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

“The Waters of Grace”
from *The Glorified Bodies*

Olivier Messiaen

+Prayer of Dedication

**You elude all names we give you
and dwell beyond the grasp of brilliant minds.
Your essence pulses within every atom
yet extends beyond the far frontiers of space,
unscanned by the strongest telescopes.
Awaken me to your presence,
now, this moment,
in my heart.**

+Doxology

***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.***

Old Hundredth

+Affirmation of Faith

**God is in the faith
By which we overcome
The fear of loneliness, of helplessness,
Of failure and of death.**

**God is in the hope
Which, like a shaft of light,
Cleaves the dark abyss
Of sin, suffering, and despair.
God is in the love
Which creates, protects, forgives.
God's spirit broods over the chaos we have wrought,
Disturbing its static wrongs,
And stirring into life the formless beginnings
Of the new and better world.**

+Closing Hymn #275

“God of Our Life”

Sandon

Benediction

Postlude

“Joy and Clarity of the Glorified Bodies”
from *The Glorified Bodies*

Olivier Messiaen

Worship Notes

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the close of worship.

The worship leader is **Jim Wallace**.

The proclaimers are **Brooke Longoria** and **Robert Carter**.

The Call to Worship is from a Covenant Order of Worship, October 12, 1980.

The Opening Sentences are from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book* from the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The Children's Choir is directed by **Emily Ramsey Holien**.

The Unison Confession is by **Janice Ramsey**.

Jacy Grannis and Patrick Parker play the "Adagio" at the 9am service.

The Prayer of Dedication is "A Psalm of Loning" by Edward Hays.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book* from the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Please stand in body or spirit