



***A Service of Worship for  
the Third Sunday of Lent  
15 March 2020***

**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](mailto: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.

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

**Adult Education**

Covenant will not be holding in-person education for the next two weeks.

**Children & Youth Sunday School**

Covenant will not be holding in-person education for the next two weeks.

**Announcements**

**Saturday, March 28** - The All Church Meeting in Huff Fellowship Hall will be rescheduled.

**Sunday, March 29** - The All Church lunch has been cancelled.

**Calendar**

Sun. Mar. 15	9:00 a.m.	Worship online
Sun. Mar. 22	9:00 a.m.	Worship online

*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.*

*Thousands have lived without love,  
not one without water.*

W.H. Auden

Preparing for worship with silence  
Gathering in peace

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

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Air from Suite in D”

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

\*+Opening Hymn #291

“O God of Earth and Altar”

Llangloffan

+Opening Prayer

**God, our Mother,  
Living Water,  
River of Mercy,  
Source of Life,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
who quenches our thirst,  
refreshes our weariness,  
bathes and washes and cleanses our wounds,  
be for us always a fountain of life  
and for all the world a river of hope  
springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair.  
Honor and blessing,  
Glory and praise  
To You forever.  
Amen**

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

Time for Children

+ 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

**God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are  
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.  
Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision,  
increase our trust in you.  
Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,**

**show us the more excellent way that your love requires.  
Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels  
overwhelming, restore our hope.  
Whenever we forget those who have gone before us  
or act as if we were the first to follow in the way of peace,  
allow us to recognize our arrogance.  
May the resources of our faith  
encourage us to dream again.  
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music (9:00)

William Byrd

“I Have Longed for Thy Saving Health, O Lord”

Silent reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #434

Kingsfold

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Johannes Brahms

“My Heart Is Filled with Longing”

+Prayer of Dedication

**God, you have entrusted us with the care of great beauty  
and enormous wealth.  
We feel in turns honored, careless, possessive, and helpless  
in the face of such providence.  
Do you mean we have to figure out together how to live with  
this abundance?  
We are so much better at dividing, hoarding, spending, and  
claiming little pieces.  
God, open our hearts and minds and hands  
that we may grow into the fruitful generous images of yourself  
that you made us to be. 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

**Justice is what love looks like in public.**

+Closing Hymn #281

CWM Rhondda

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Benediction

Postlude

Paul Manz

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

\*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Please stand in body or spirit

### 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 **Melissa Bernardoni**.

The Call to Worship is a prayer of Nancy Murzyn printed in *Soul Weavings: A Gathering of Women's Prayers* edited by Lyn Klug .

The Opening Prayer is of the Medical Mission Sisters reprinted in *Life Prayers Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Unison Confession is adapted from a prayer of J. Bennett Guess.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *The Well Is Deep: Prayers to Draw Up Living Water* by Virginia Rickeman.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Cornel West.