



*A Service of Worship for
10 May 2020*

“Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth.”

Albert Einstein

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

“Prelude from Suite No. 1 in G major”

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

In the Christian sense, love is not primarily an emotion, but an act of the will. Jesus is telling us to love our neighbors in the sense of being willing to work for their well-being even if it means sacrificing our own well-being to that end, even if it means sometimes just leaving them alone. Thus in Jesus’ terms, we can love our neighbors without necessarily liking them. This does not mean that liking may not be a part of loving, only that it doesn’t have to be. Sometimes liking follows on the heels of loving. It is hard to work for people’s well-being very long without coming in the end to rather like them too.

Scripture Lesson

John 14:1-14

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 Grace,

**Despite our best intentions,
we are not certain
that we want to tell the truth about our lives; or
that we want others to enable us to tell the truth about our lives; or
that we want relationship with you to reveal the truth about our lives.**

We say we are in pursuit of truth.

**We admit, however, that
truth is often what we fear most,
what we want least,
what we avoid at all costs.**

**But, God of grace,
we also believe that
it is truth that makes us free.**

**So, in grace, lead us to the truth.
With faith, give us courage to be truthful.
Through love, do not let us go. Amen**

Words of Assurance

Music

African American Folk Song

“Bring Me Li'l' Water, Sylvie”

Silent reflection

Proclamation

Music

Jane Marshal

“He Comes to Us”

+Prayer of Dedication

**We must make a choice.
Will we continue to march to the drumbeat
of conformity and respectability, or will we,
listening to the beat of a more distant drum,
move to its echoing sounds?
Will we march only to the music of time,
or will we, risking criticism and abuse,
march to the soulsaving music of eternity?
More than ever before we are today challenged
by the words of yesterday,
“Be not conformed to this world,
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”**

*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

There is no conflict between God and humanity, no hostility between spirit and body, no wedge between the holy and the secular. Humanity does not exist apart from God. The human is the borderline of the divine.

Life passes on in proximity to the sacred, and it is this proximity that endows existence with ultimate significance. In our relation to the immediate we touch upon the most distant. Even the satisfaction of physical needs can be a sacred act. Perhaps the essential message of religion is that in doing the finite we may perceive the infinite.

God is not hiding in a temple. The Torah came to tell attentive humanity: “You are not alone, you live constantly in a holy neighborhood; remember: ‘Love thy neighbor — God – as thyself.’”

We are not asked to abandon life and to say farewell to this world, but to keep the spark within aflame, and to suffer God’s light to reflect in our faces. Let our greed not rise like a barrier to this neighborhood. God is waiting on every road that leads from intention to action.

Music

William Walker

“Rise, My Soul and Stretch Thy Wings”

Benediction

Postlude

Dietrich Buxtehude

“Prelude and Chaconne in C”

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 **Sabrina Neff**.

The prelude is played by **Susan Wegner**, cello.

The Call to Worship is “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou.

The Opening Sentences are from “Wishful Thinking” by Frederick Buechner.

The Unison Confession is by Jay Leach.

“Bring Me Li’l’ Water, Sylvie” is played by **Jeannie Gambill**.

“He Comes to Us” is sung by **Eric Avera**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Transformed Nonconformist” in *Strength to Love* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *Man Is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion* by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

“Rise, My Soul and Stretch Thy Wings” is sung by **Rose Lange**.

The postlude is played by Patrick Parker, organ.

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

Covenant will not be holding in-person education until further notice.

Announcements

Covenant will be holding smaller groups on Zoom. We will also hold virtual coffee time each Sunday at 11am on Facebook.

Calendar

Sun. May. 10	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	11:00 a.m.	Facebook Live coffee time
Mon. May 11	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Tue. May 12	4:00 p.m.	Kid's Corner, Zoom Meeting
Wed. May 13	1:00 p.m.	Posted Devotional, View Devotional
Wed. May 13	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 14	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 14	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 14	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. May. 15	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 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.