



*A Service of Worship for  
Pentecost Sunday  
23 May 2021*

May the sound  
of God's name  
spill from your lips  
as you have never  
heard it before.

May your knowing  
be undone.

May mystery  
confound your  
understanding.

May the Divine  
rain down  
in strange syllables  
yet with  
an ancient familiarity

Jan Richardson

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

David Johnson

“Trumpet Tune”

Call to Worship

†Opening Prayer

**We are creatures of habit.  
We are reluctant to tread a new path  
because we don't know where it leads.  
Then we are forced down a new path by detours of circumstances,  
and the new becomes the familiar,  
and again we fear finding a fork in the new road.  
Sometimes the new road leads us to an open space,  
lit by the sun, cooled by breaths of breeze,  
but if we fear the path we haven't worn smooth by our repeated travel,  
protected, but breathless, shaded but covered from the sun,  
we risk missing what the light reveals,  
and the invigorating spirit found in new meadows.**

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:1-21

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Laudes Domini

“Let Every Christian Pray”

Graduate Recognition Litany

Leader: Alex Milano, Elliott Miller, and Vee Nagel, will soon graduate from high school and Virginia Wells has just graduated from college. These young people have completed a significant educational milestone.

**People: We celebrate you this day. We congratulate you on your academic accomplishments.**

Sunday School Teachers and Mentors: We celebrate who you have been, who you are now, and who you will continue to become.

Leader: Frederick Buechner wrote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

**People: As you continue to find this place, we pray for your courage to create peace; we pray that you remember that we are each called to love ourselves and our neighbors; we pray that you know you are celebrated by this church family for being exactly who you are even as you continue to become.**

**All: Together we affirm: The loving presence of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the revealed Spirit throughout the ages. the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe. Truth as an ongoing process, and the necessity to be explorers in the continuing discovery of faith and understanding.**

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

**God,  
send the gift of your Spirit,  
to fill this place  
and ourselves  
and the world.**

**Touch us  
with truth  
that burns like fire,  
with beauty  
that moves us like the wind;  
and set us free, God,  
free to try new ways of living;  
free to forgive ourselves and others;**

**free to love and laugh and sing;  
free to lay aside our burden of security;  
free to join the battle for justice and peace;  
free to see and listen and wonder again  
at the gracious mystery of things and persons;**

**free to be,  
to give,  
to receive,  
to rejoice as a child of your Spirit.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Peter Anglea

“Jubilate Deo”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Greetings from Tim Moore

Invitation

<sup>†</sup>Prayer of Dedication

**Mindful of truth ever exceeding our knowledge  
and community ever exceeding our practice,  
reverently we covenant together,  
beginning with ourselves as we are,  
to share the strength of integrity  
and the heritage of the spirit  
in the unending quest for wisdom and love.**

\*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

**I thought I heard the voice of the spirit cry:  
Come and find me. You won't have to look hard.  
Come to where the ocean touches the shore; find  
me in the bright-light promise of morning on the  
waves; look carefully at the bubbles breaking on the  
wet sand—there I am. Turn over the glistening rock,  
slippery with its cushion of seaweed—here I am.  
Hear the gulls crying news of the endless ocean—  
that is my news, my voice. Lie with me in the tall,  
green marsh grass; see my footprints in the sand you  
have walked upon. Do not say I am lost, for you have  
found me. I am here.**

Benediction

Postlude

Paul Manz

“O That I Had a Thousand Voices”

### **Worship Notes**

The worship leader is **Nita Lindley**.

The prelude and postlude are played by Andrew Bowen, organ.

The Call to Worship is “Psalmsong” from *Morning Watch: Meditations* by Barbara Pescan.

The Opening Prayer is by **David Lee**.

The Unison Confession is from *Guerrillas of Grace* by Ted Loder.

"Jubilate Deo" is sung by The Covenant Singers from April 19, 2016, directed by **Fran Avera**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Walter Royal Jones, Jr. in *Singing the Living Tradition, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Hymnal*.

The Affirmation of Faith is “Preface” from *Life Tides* by Elizabeth Tarbox.

### **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 class on Sunday, May 23 will feature Dr. Anne Chao, Program Manager of the Houston Asian American Archive (HAAA), who will be speaking on "Witness to History: Stories from the Houston Asian American Archive."

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website: [Covenant Gatherings](#)

### **Announcements**

#### **Sunday schedule for this Sunday:**

9:00 - Adult Education with Zoom

10:00 - Worship via videos on the worship website

11:00 - Gather together for coffee time with Zoom

### **Calendar**

Sun. May 23	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 am.	Coffee Time, Zoom Meeting
Mon. May 24	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Wed. May 26	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 27	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. May 27	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. May 28	1:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Sat. Jun 5	9:00 a.m.	Facilities Work Day, Covenant

### **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](mailto:Office@covenanthouston.org).

**Newsletter:** To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto: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  
Andrew Bowen, Interim Organist  
Monique Cruz, Office and 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.*