



*A Service of Worship for
Trinity Sunday
30 May 2021*

I read in a book
that a man called Christ
went about doing good.
It is very disconcerting to me
that I am so easily satisfied
with just going about.

Toyohiko Kagawa

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour
Silence is kept

Prelude

Louis-Nicholas Clerambault

“Flute Duo”

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

**In the worst of times, people often say,
“All we have is God.”**

Indeed.

**Here “God” is the thread of hope
that desperate people hold on to.
God is that scrap of life and goodness
still in us.**

God is what keeps us from giving up.

**God is not a being,
but whatever life or love there is,
no matter how small.**

We hold on to whatever shred of hope is left.

**It is very small indeed sometimes—
but it is enough.**

Scripture Lesson

John 3:1-17

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Nicaea

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord, God Almighty”

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

**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.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Joachim Stutschewsky

“Nuts and Wine”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**Creator, open our hearts
to peace and healing between all people**

**Creator, open our hearts
to provide and protect for all children of the earth.**

**Creator, open our hearts
to respect for the earth, and all the gifts of the earth.**

**Creator, open our hearts
to end exclusion, violence, and fear among all.**

Thank you for the gifts of this day and every day.

*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

**When faith is completely replaced by creed,
worship by discipline,
love by habit;
when the crisis of today is ignored
because of the splendor of the past;
when faith becomes an heirloom
rather than a living fountain;
when religion speaks only in the name of authority
rather than with the voice of compassion,
its message becomes meaningless.**

Benediction

Postlude

Ralph Vaughan Williams

“Eternal Lord, We Pray”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Nita Lindley**.

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

The Call to Worship is “God Time” by **Lewis Garvin**.

The Opening Sentences are from *A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming* by Sallie McFague.

The Unison Confession is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book, the 1975 Prayer Book of the Central Conference of [Reformed] Rabbis*.

“Nuts and Wine” **Susan Wegner**, cello; **Karen Kline**, piano.

The Prayer of Dedication is from the Native American, Micmac (Mi'kmaq) Tribe, by Alicia Longriver.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Quest for God* by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Education 9:00 - 9:40 a.m.

Adult Education recorded education sessions will be made available on this page: [Adult Education Recordings](#).

This Sunday join us online. May is Mental Health Month. Bipolar Disorder, also known as Manic-Depressive Disorder, is a significant challenge for those affected with it and those who interact with them in various kinds of relationships. Longtime Covenant member Jane Ann Leeves, MD, is a psychiatrist with both professional and personal expertise with this disorder, since she has experienced it herself for nearly thirty years and has been writing about living with it, including vivid descriptions of some of her episodes. She says, "Research shows that the best way to reduce stigma is to get to know someone who has a mental illness." Jane Ann's courageous presentation today will offer our community an opportunity to learn more about bipolar disorder and to get to know her even better.

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 30	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 am.	Coffee Time, Zoom Meeting
Wed. Jun 2	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Jun 3	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Jun 3	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Jun 4	1:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Sat. Jun 5	9:00 a.m.	Facilities Work Day, Covenant
Sun. Jun 6		Youth/Mentor + Pride Decoration Day

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

Andrew Bowen, Interim 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.