



*A Service of Worship for
20 June 2021*

I confess my own share in the ills of the times.
I have shirked my own responsibilities as a citizen.
I have not been wise in casting my ballot.
I have left to others a real interest in making a public opinion worthy of democracy.
I have been concerned about my own little job, my own little security,
my own shelter, my own bread.
I have not really cared about jobs for others, security for others,
shelter for others, bread for others.
I have not worked for peace; I want peace, but I have voted and worked for war.
I have silenced my own voice that it may not be heard on the side of any cause,
however right, if it meant running risks or damaging my own little reputation.

Howard Thurman

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Anthony Giamanco

"Prelude on 'St. Aelred'" (Peace, Be Still)

Call to Worship

†Opening Prayer

**Sower of living hearts,
sower of tenderness,
sower of courage,
sower of service,
sower of prayer,
sower of light.
God, sow within us!**

**Sower of gifts,
sower of forgiveness,
sower of faith,
sower of joy
sower of life,
sower of the Beatitudes.
God, sow in the hearts of all people!**

**Even if we are hard as stones,
be patient with us!
Your Good News will manage to slip
between the tight cracks in our rock and will
grow into giant sheaves of Good News!**

Amen

Scripture Lesson

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Jerusalem

"O Day of Peace"

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

**Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Percy Grainger

"A Blessing"

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Invitation

†Prayer of Dedication

**We seek peace with all people.
We affirm that security rests not in armaments.
We seek a just economic order
in which everyone has access to the abundance of the earth.
We seek justice in human relationships.
We choose struggle rather than indifference.**

**We choose to be citizens rather than subjects.
We choose to be friends of the earth, not exploiters.
We choose to be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers.
We join other communities resisting the threat of hunger and injustice.
Before us today are set life and death.
We unite to resist the powers of death;
We choose life that we and our children may live.**

*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

**We affirm our faith in the little graces of life:
The urgency of growth, the strength of laughter, the vitality of friendship.**

**We affirm our confidence in the dignity of humankind:
Fortitude in despair, strength in weakness, love in hatred.**

**We affirm our joy in the experiences of living:
The fragrance of nostalgia, the scattered moments of delight, the exhilaration
of danger.**

**We affirm our need of comrades:
The offerings of faiths, the gifts of variety, the quality of difference.**

**We affirm our hunger for God:
The desire for fulfillment, the ache for understanding, the sense of peace.**

Benediction

Postlude

J.S. Bach

“Invention No. 1 in C Major”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Moses Mason**.

The guest proclaimer is Reverend Denise Junious.

The prelude and postlude are played by **Karen Kline**, piano.

The Call to Worship is a prayer of Rhys Williams.

The Opening Prayer is from *Imaging the Word Vol. 2*, by Charles Singer and Albert Hari.

The Unison Confession is from Project Plowshares, as reprinted in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the hymnal of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

“Blessing” by The Covenant Singers; **David Lee**, directing.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Warren Talbot.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from “The Season of Affirmation” in *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman.

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

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

For Sunday’s Adult Education, Bill Kline will tell the story of his spiritual journey.

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

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| Sun. June 20 | 9:00 a.m. | Worship Online |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Adult Education, Zoom Meeting |
| | 11:00 am. | Coffee Time, Zoom Meeting |
| Mon. June 21 | 1:00 p.m. | Book Group, Zoom Meeting |
| Wed. June 23 | 7:00 p.m. | Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting |
| Thur. June 24 | 10:00 a.m. | Community Group, Zoom Meeting |
| Thur. June 24 | 8:00 p.m. | Community Group, Zoom Meeting |
| Fri. June 25 | 1:00 p.m. | Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, 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

Andrew Bowen, Interim Organist

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

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