



*A Service of Worship for
4 July 2021*

Never doubt
that a small group
of thoughtful committed citizens
can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Jean Francois Dandrieu

“The Fifers”

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #434

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Kingsfold

+Opening Prayer

**There need to be stories;
love has to be told, danced,
sung and whistled...
Love has to be evoked
over and over again.**

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

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

**Forgive us when we live vicariously, O God,
when we let others show our outrage,
let others experience what should be our own excitement and fear,**

let others pay the price of loving while we watch.

**For all the ways in which we think knowing about something is enough, forgive us.
For all the ways in which we let glib and radical talk suffice rather than exploring
the pain and grief in our hearts and in our world with integrity, forgive us.**

**For all the ways in which we burden our sisters and brothers with our curiosity and
deny them our concern, forgive us.**

**We pray through him who always not only saw but also moved out in passion
to the lonely and the pained--and healed them. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Johann Friedrich Peter

“It is a Precious Thing”

Proclamation

Silent Reflection

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

J. S. Bach

“Sarabande from Partita No. 1”

†Prayer of Dedication

**We seek to see clearly
the complexity of life.**

**We seek to celebrate
the wonder and beauty of life.**

**We seek to transcend
the conditions of oppression
through loving life, self, and others.**

**We seek to move
toward social transformation.**

**Our efforts are partial,
yet they are divine
in their love and courage.**

They bear witness.

*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

**Each of us tells ourselves
some kind of story
about who we are
and what our life is about...**

**Some stories weave the fragments
of our experience into a greater whole,
in a way that reveals
relationship and connection.
Other stories lock us into the fragments,
leaving us nowhere to turn...**

**A new story can begin.
We will work to make it
a story of faith.**

†Closing Hymn

“Your Peace Will Make Us One”

Audrey Assad

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
You are speaking truth to power, you are laying down our swords
Replanting every vineyard 'til a brand new wine is poured
Your peace will make us one**

**I've seen you in our home fires burning with a quiet light
You are mothering and feeding in the wee hours of the night
Your gentle love is patient, you will never fade or tire
Your peace will make us one**

**Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!**

**Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Your peace will make us one**

**In the beauty of the lilies, you were born across the sea
With a glory in your bosom that is still transfiguring
Dismantling our empires 'til each one of us is free**

Your peace will make us one

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Your peace will make us one

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Your peace will make us one

Benediction

Postlude

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Gustav Holst/Lloyd Larson

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Dale Thomas**.

The banner was created by **Nancy Henry**.

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

The Call to Worship is “The Invitation” by Oriah Mountain Dreamer.

The Opening Prayer is from “Where Love Is, There Is God,” in *The Mystery of Death* by Dorothee Soelle.

“It is a Precious Thing” is sung by **Jay Hooker**, baritone and **Candy Luedde**, soprano.

The Unison Confession is from a Covenant Order of Worship, November 12, 1978.

The Prayer of Dedication is by adapted from *A Feminist Ethic of Risk* by Sharon Welch.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from and inspired by *Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience* by Sharon Salzberg.

The text of “Your Truth Will Make Us One” is by Audrey Assad.

Please note: There are restrooms upstairs. We ask that you use those during the service.

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 offering for Sunday, July 4, will feature a video of a conversation between Krista Tippett, whose [On Being](#) podcast is valued by many Covenant members, and Richard Haass, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, "an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, publisher, and educational institution dedicated to being a resource to help people better understand the world, and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries." This conversation served as the keynote session of an all-day Religion and Foreign Policy Workshop at the Council on May 18, 2021. Among the topics Dr. Haass addresses are the Israel-Palestine conflict; whether major corporations have a responsibility to respond to take stands on such issues as genocide, climate change, slave labor and supply chains; religious; how to discern and move beyond conflicting information sources; and how to build faith literacy among policy makers.

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

Announcements

Sunday schedule for this Sunday:

Adult Education (Zoom) 9am

Worship in-person (Covenant) 11am

Worship live-stream 11am (<https://www.covenanthouston.org>)

Calendar

Sun. July 4	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 a.m.	Worship live-stream
Mon. July 5	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 8	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 8	7:15 p.m.	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Thur. July 8	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. July 9	1:00 p.m.	No Meeting, Lunchtime Lectionary Lab

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

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.