



*A Service of Worship for  
18 July 2021*

They All Want to Play Hamlet  
They all want to play Hamlet.  
They have not exactly seen their fathers killed  
Nor their mothers in a frame-up to kill,  
Nor an Ophelia lying with dust gagging the heart,  
Not exactly the spinning circles of singing golden spiders,  
Not exactly this have they got at nor the meaning of flowers  
O flowers, flowers slung by a dancing girl  
in the saddest play the inkfish, Shakespeare ever wrote;  
Yet they all want to play Hamlet because it is sad like all actors are sad  
and to stand by an open grave with a joker's skull  
in the hand and then to say over slow  
and over slow wise, keen, beautiful words asking the heart  
that's breaking, breaking,  
This is something that calls and calls to their blood.  
They are acting when they talk about it and they know  
it is acting to be particular about it and yet:  
They all want to play Hamlet.

Carl Sandburg

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Sergei Prokofiev

“Dance of the Knights”

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #302

“I Danced in the Morning” verses 1-3

Simple Gifts

+Responsive Opening Sentences

**Leader:** When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes  
I all alone bewep my outcast state  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries  
And look upon myself and curse my fate,  
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,  
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,  
With what I most enjoy contented least;

**People: Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,  
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,  
Like to the lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;**

**Leader:** For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings  
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

Scripture Lesson

Proverbs 20:15

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

Words of Assurance

Meditation

Music

“Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind”

John Rutter

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

“Nocturne”

Felix Mendelssohn

†Responsive Prayer of Dedication

**Leader:** I charge thee, fling away ambition;  
By that sin fell the angels. How can man then,  
The image of his Maker, hope to win by't?  
Love thyself last : cherish e'en hearts that hate thee;

**People: Corruption wins not more than honesty  
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,  
To silence envious tongues: be just and fear not:**

**Leader:** Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,  
Thy God's, and truth's.

\*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.*

+Responsive Affirmation of Faith

**Leader:** They that have power to hurt and will do none,  
That do not do the thing they most do show,  
Who, moving others, are themselves as stone,  
Unmoved, cold, and to temptation slow,

**People: They rightly do inherit heaven's graces  
And husband nature's riches from expense;  
They are the lords and owners of their faces,  
Others but stewards of their excellence.**

**Leader:** The summer's flower is to the summer sweet,  
Though to itself it only live and die,  
But if that flower with base infection meet,  
The basest weed outbraves his dignity:

**People: For sweetest things turn sourest by their deeds;  
Lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds.**

Benediction

Postlude

“Wedding March”

Felix Mendelssohn

**Worship Notes**

The worship leader is **Ruddy Cravens**.

Actors are Callina Anderson, Keven Cooney, Shannon Emerick, John Felch and Melissa Molano.

The prelude is from *Romeo and Juliet* by Sergei Prokofiev.

The Call to Worship is from *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare.

The Opening Sentences is *Sonnet 29* by William Shakespeare.

The Call to Confession is from *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare.

“Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind” is from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by John Rutter.

“Nocturne” from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Felix Mendelssohn.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Henry VIII* by William Shakespeare.

The Affirmation of Faith is *Sonnet 154* by William Shakespeare.

The postlude is “Wedding March” from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Felix Mendelssohn.

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](#).

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 ([UCvglQfUtMhLoafIP-27iTDg](#))

## **Calendar**

Sun. July 18	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 19	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 20	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 20	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. July 23	1:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Fri. July 23	6:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Walk, 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

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.*