



*A Service of Worship for  
The Fifth Sunday of Lent  
2 April 2022*

Furthermore, we have not  
even to risk the adventure alone,  
for the heroes of all time have gone before us.

The labyrinth is thoroughly known.  
We have only to follow the thread of the hero path,  
and where we had thought to find abomination,  
we shall find a god.

And where we had thought to slay another,  
we shall slay ourselves.

Where we had thought to travel outward,  
we will come to the center of our own existence.

And where we had thought to be alone,  
we will be with all the world.

Joseph Campbell

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ring in the hour  
Silence is kept

Prelude

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

“I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ”

Call to Worship

\*+Opening Hymn #411

Festal Song

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

+Opening Prayer

**Lent is a time to remember our limits  
– our mortality, our finitude,  
but also the limits of our best intentions.**

**The good we intend with our lives  
is mixed up with personal and communal  
brokenness and failure.**

**Lent is a time to remember that  
and to remember also that grace abounds.**

Scripture Lesson

Philippians 3:4b-14

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

†Response:

Au Clair de la Lune

**Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all;  
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small.  
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,  
Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Let the rain come and wash away  
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds  
held and nurtured over generations.  
Let the rain wash away the memory  
of the hurt, the neglect.  
Then let the sun come out and  
fill the sky with rainbows.  
Let the warmth of the sun heal us  
wherever we are broken.  
Let it burn away the fog so that  
we can see each other clearly,  
so that we can see beyond labels,  
beyond accents, gender or skin color.  
Let the warmth and brightness  
of the sun melt our selfishness,  
so that we can share the joys and  
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.  
And let the light of the sun  
be so strong that we will see all  
people as our neighbors.  
Let the earth, nourished by rain,  
bring forth flowers  
to surround us with beauty.  
And let the mountains teach our hearts  
to reach upward to heaven.  
  
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

<sup>+</sup>Hymn

Winchester New

“O God, the Things That Make for Peace”

**O God, the things that make for peace  
Seem hidden, distant, out of reach.  
Our world is violent, bent on war;  
Lord, show us peace worth struggling for.**

**Your peace begins when we embrace  
Your Son — your wondrous gift of grace.  
For peace with others surely starts  
When we find peace within our hearts.**

**Yet peace is not a quiet thing,  
An inward gift to which we cling.  
For Jesus blessed the ones who share  
Your peace and justice everywhere.**

**We thank you that your love extends  
Beyond the circle of our friends.  
You teach us: Give the stranger bread  
And see that enemies are fed.**

**We long to live your way, O Lord,  
To see relationships restored;  
May we, in all we say and do,  
Seek peace and therefore honor you.**

Invitation

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Arvo Pärt  
(b. 1935)

“Spiegel im Spiegel”

+Prayer of Dedication

**We offer ourselves and all that we are –  
our bitter tears  
our lightening laughter  
our senses of awe and wonder  
our deepest questions  
our rage at injustice  
our creative thoughts  
our longing for peace  
– to the sacred work of making a better world.**

\*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

**To realize our human condition  
and fulfill our calling to wholeness and holiness of life  
calls for a life of continual transformations,  
of new beginnings, and of growing up.  
Conversion involves changes in the way we look at the world,  
at others, at ourselves,  
and at the things we think matter.  
To turn and live in response to the call of God is to be human.  
It is a continuing process.  
So is our growth in maturity of faith and life.  
We need to grow into our new perceptions.  
We need to realize our true human condition as a chosen, redeemed people.  
It is a slow and gradual pilgrimage of beginnings and endings.**

+Closing Hymn #419

Repton

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

Benediction

Postlude

Frank Speller  
(1938-2017)

"Der am Kreuz" (The One on the Cross)

## **Worship Notes**

The worship leader is **Robert Carter**.

The Call to Worship is by Ann Weems.

The Opening Sentences are by Peter Kline.

The Unison Confession is “A Prayer for the World” by Rabbi Harold Kushner, 2003.

The text of “O God, the Things That Make for Peace” is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

**Jacy Grannis** is the violinist on “Spiegel im Spiegel.”

The Prayer of Dedication is by Jeremy Rutledge.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *The Spiritual Life: Learning East and West* by John Westerhoff III.

## **Education 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

### **Adult Education**

Earth Day is April 22nd, and in April we will have two guest speakers to teach us how to better steward and share our earthly resources. This Sunday we welcome Andrew Stout, a PhD student and New Harvest fellow at Tufts University. He will join us on Zoom to tell us about the growing field of cellular agriculture, also known as “lab grown meat”, and the promise and potential pitfalls of this paradigm shift in how we feed ourselves. His bio can be found here:

<https://new-harvest.org/blog?author=andrew-stout>

- *Ann Stout*

### **Children & Youth Sunday School**

We will have two options for Sunday School: virtual from 10-10:30, and in-person in the Huff Fellowship Hall from 10:30-11 (masks required). This way, everyone can take part in the fun.

- *Trena Jamison*

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website:

<https://www.covenanthouston.org/covenant-gatherings.html>

## **Announcements**

### **Lend a Hand this Facility Work Day: April 9**

The facilities committee is having a work day on Saturday, April 9th from 9am - 11:30am, and would love to have your help! Here is a sample of the activities for the Facilities Workday Saturday. Make the yard safe for the Easter egg hunt the following week, garden activities, window washing, changing air filters, and cleaning up some graffiti in our alleyway. All ages are welcome. Thank you!

- *Facilities Committee*

## **New Sunday Morning Schedule for Educational Opportunities for all Ages and Hospitality**

Beginning Sunday, April 10, we will adopt the following Sunday morning schedule. Our worship time will not change. For hospitality, we will offer coffee and snacks in the Huff Fellowship Hall. While eating and drinking, everyone is welcome to remove masks. Our new dishwasher is not yet installed. We will begin hospitality using disposable cups and plates. We encourage you to bring a travel mug for your coffee so you can take it home with you and wash it. We hope to have our new dishwasher installed soon.

**9:30-10:20 - Adult Ed (Zoom and in-person) and Children and Youth Education**

**10:20 -11:00 - Hospitality**

**10:40 - Choir Rehearsal**

**11:00 - Worship**

*- Laura Mayo, Senior Minister, Church Council, Adult Education Committee, Children and Youth Committee, Hospitality Committee, and Worship Committee*

### **Children and Youth Activities**

We are approaching the annual Children and Youth auction. If you have any handmade items or any experiences you would like to donate, please feel free to reach out to me or anyone on the Children and Youth committee.

- April 10 Easter Egg stuffing with youth after church
- April 16 Annual Easter Egg Hunt from 9am - 10am
- May 8 Youth Moving Forward Planning Meeting
- May 15 Children & Youth Auction

*- Trena' Jamison, Director of Children & Youth*

### **Calendar**

Sun, Apr 3	9:00 am	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	10:00 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Zoom
	10:30 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Covenant
	10:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship live-stream
	12:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal, Covenant
Tue. Apr 5	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr 7	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Apr 7	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Sat. Apr 9	9:00 am	Facility Work Day, Covenant

## **Helpful Information**

**Visitor's Card:** If you're a visitor with us, please submit a [Visitor's 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

Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth

David Lee, Director of Music

Laura Mayo, Senior Minister

Christopher Teel, Organist

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