



*A Service of Worship for
Children & Youth Sunday
21 April 2024*

We believe in a world
Where all people can live in peace
Without the fear of war
Where all children can play in clean fresh air
Without the threat of pollution
Where all people are treated equally
And can worship together.
Because we believe that
God is peace
God is holiness
God is love.

(Written by Covenant's third, fourth and fifth grade class of 2007.)

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

*Prelude

Daniel Rosenfeld
(b.1989)

“Andante”

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #473

Dix

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For Thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Off’ring up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**Please hold silence and remain seated during the prelude*

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Opening Sentences

**We attend church because we wish
to gain insight in the world and
be affirmed in our contrasting ideals.
Children and Youth Sunday is an avenue
for children to claim responsibility
and voice their opinions to the church.
Nature is the essence and soul
of life around us and it needs our call
to action to work for environmental justice.**

Invitation

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 23

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

+Response:

Hymn to Joy

*Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us homeward, in the triumph song of life.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Give us strength to understand,
and eyes to see.
Teach us to walk the soft Earth
as relatives to all that live.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Frédéric Chopin

“Prelude in C# minor”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Please stand in body or spirit

Verses 1, 2, Lloyd Stone, 1934
 Verse 3, Georgia Harkness, 1939

This Is My Song

Finlandia

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,
 3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:

a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.
 and sun-light beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine;
 Thy king-dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;
 but oth-er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,
 Let Christ be lift-ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho-ly shrine;
 and skies are ev-ery-where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u-nit-ed learn to live as one.

but oth-er hearts in oth-er lands are beat-ing
 O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,
 O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na-tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my-self I give thee; let thy will be done.

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

“Be Thou My Vision”

Dale Wood
(1934-2003)

+Prayer of Dedication

Life earth

All connected love life birth

Wonders of God’s love

Love is life and natural

Love us and will be

Earth’s love

Wonders love of our Planet

We protect wonders

+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

As today is Earth day, we are called

to accept earth’s love.

We are called to enjoy the wonders of Earth.

But more than all of that

we must love the earth back.

We must care for the earth

for it is not everlasting.

Today we must enjoy the great world

that we live in but also prepare for the future,

so we can preserve this great wonder we have been given.

“Thank You, God, for Water, Soil, and Air”

**Thank you, God, for water, soil, and air,
Large gifts supporting everything that lives.
Forgive our spoiling and abuse of them.
Help us renew the face of the earth.**

**Thank you, God, for minerals and ores,
The basis of all building, wealth, and speed.
Forgive our reckless plundering and waste.
Help us renew the face of the earth.**

**Thank you, God, for priceless energy,
Stored in each atom, gathered from the sun.
Forgive our greed and carelessness of power.
Help us renew the face of the earth.**

**Thank you, God, for weaving nature’s life
Into a seamless robe, a fragile whole.
Forgive our haste that tampers unaware.
Help us renew the face of the earth.**

**Thank you, God, for making planet earth
A home for us and ages yet unborn.
Help us to share, consider, save, and store.
Come and renew the face of the earth.**

Benediction

*Postlude

Margaretha Christina de Jong
(b. 1961)

“Fantasy on the Old Hundredth”

+Please stand in body or spirit

**Please hold silence and remain seated during the postlude*

Worship Notes

The worship leaders are the Children and Youth of Covenant.

The Call to Worship is from “The Timeless Psalms” by Joan Stott.

The Opening Sentences were created by Mentor & Youth Pod: **Jason Steiner** and **Sebastian Alexander**.

The Unison Confession is from a Sioux prayer in *The Greening Congregations Handbook: Stories, Ideas, and Resources for Cultivating Creation Awareness and Care in Your Congregation*, edited by Tanya Barnett.

The music is played by pianist **Julian Laureles**.

The Prayer of Dedication is created from three poems by Mentor & Youth Pod: **Genie Joslin**, **Sterling Alexander**, and **Grayson Stepp**.

The Affirmation of Faith was created by Mentor & Youth Pod: **David Ramsey** and **Owen Stepp**.

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Education 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Adult Education - Clint Gambill will reflect on his spiritual journey.

- *Rose Lange*

Children & Youth Education - Children & Youth will not meet this week.

Children and Youth Announcements

Events

- **May 5:** Cinco de Mayo Taco Splash Day
- **June 9-13:** McMurry University Youth Camp Passport, (**please see newsletter for sign-up link**).
- **July 27-30:** Heart of Texas Camp Brownwood, TX Children Camp Passport, (**please see newsletter for sign-up link**).

Calendar

Sun. Apr 21	9:30am	Adult Education, Adult Education classroom on the 2nd floor of the Huff Fellowship Hall Building
	10:20am	Hospitality, Huff Fellowship Hall Building
	11:00am	Sunday Worship in-person, Sanctuary and via live-stream, YouTube
	12:15pm	Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary/Children's Area
Tue. Apr 23	1:00pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thurs. Apr 25	10:00am	Community Group, Zoom

Helpful Information

Childcare: Childcare is provided in the children's area beginning at 9:30 a.m. Children aged 2 and under are invited to the nursery. Children aged 3 to 9 are invited to the children's area after the Time for Children.

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.

Newsletter: To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to office@covenanthouston.org.

Office Hours: The church office is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm.

Covenant Recycles: If you do not wish to keep your order of worship, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex.

*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

Brian Buck, Facilities Coordinator

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth

David Lee, Director of Music

Laura Mayo, Senior Minister

Jason Steiner, Organist

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*Covenant Church recognizes the laws of the State of Texas and the rights of its
citizens. Consistent with this acknowledgment and with respect for the values of
our Church, we also acknowledge that our congregants and visitors seek a safe
and comfortable space for worship and celebration. **In that spirit, we request that
all firearms be left in a secure place outside of the Church.** We thank God for
providing us with the opportunity to worship together and to continue to respect
each other as human beings.*