



*A Service of Worship for
22 May 2022*

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Saint Teresa of Avila

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Samuel Scheidt
(1587-1654)

“Veni Creator Spiritus” (I)

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #324

Open My Eyes

“Open My Eyes That I Might See”

+Opening Sentences

**Now is the door swinging open
to see the dance of sunlight,
hint of moonbeam.
Now do the pews bloom,
that were dry-old wood,
cut from forests long ago.
Now does a fresh wind
ruffle the memorial Bible
like a gust of Pentecost.
Now is the writing on the walls
not hymn numbers,
but God’s laughter.
Now is the new covenant
not stone but heart,
not stone but heart.**

Scripture Lesson

Acts 11:1-18

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

+Response:

Lasst uns erfreuen

In every land begin the song, To every land the strains belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sound all voices raise, And fill the world with joyful praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

May we recognize the Spirit

in each of us, and the Spirit

in all of us.

Words of Assurance

Music

John Rutter

(b. 1945)

“Open Thou Mine Eyes”

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see;
Incline my heart and I shall desire;
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of thy commandments.
O Lord God, be thou to me a God
And beside thee let there be none else,
No other, naught else with thee.
Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and serve thee
According to thy commandments
In truth of spirit,
In reverence of body,
In blessings of lips,
In private and in public.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Christopher Teel
(b. 1971)

“Fughetta on *O Filii et Filiae*”

+Prayer of Dedication

**Enable us, by your grace and empowerment,
to become expanders of life, scatterers of laughter,
singers of songs, makers of peace,
spreaders of good news, healers of wounds,
tellers of truth, practitioners of mercy,
sharers of joy, weavers of community,
walkers in humility, fulfillers of your dreams for us.**

+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

**The central task of the religious community
is to unveil the bonds that bind us to each other.
There is a connectedness,
a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our lives
and the lives of others.
Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.**

**It is the church that assures us
that we are not struggling for justice on our own,
but as members of a larger community.
The religious community is essential,
For alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen,
And our strength is too limited to do all that must be done.
Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.**

“Let Us Build a House” (All Are Welcome)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be -
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their

all can safe - ly live, a place where saints and
 words are strong and true, where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone to heal and strength-en,
 songs and vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured,

chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek to dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, and live the Word they've
 taught and claimed as words with - in the

give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re -
 known. Here the out - cast and the strang - er bear the
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of

faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall
 sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we claim the
 veiled in time and space; as we share in Christ the
 im - age of God's face; let us bring an end to
 faith and songs of grace; let this house pro - claim from

end di - vi - sions:
 faith of Je - sus:
 feast that frees us: all are wel - come; all are wel - come;
 fear and dan - ger:
 floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come in this place.

Benediction

Postlude

Samuel Scheidt

“Veni Creator Spiritus” (II)

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Annie Christensen**.

The Call to Worship is adapted from *Man Is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion* by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The Opening Sentences are from *Shaping Sanctuary: Proclaiming God’s Grace in an Inclusive Church* by Maren Tirabassi, edited by Kelly Turney.

The Unison Confession from “*Prayers for a Thousand Years*” by Ram Dass.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *My Heart in My Mouth* by Ted Loder.

The Affirmation of Faith is a reading of Mark Morrison-Reed in *Singing the Living Tradition, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Hymnal*.

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

Adult Education - May is Mental Health Month. This Sunday we will have the privilege of hearing from several of our Covenant mental health professionals who refer to themselves as the "Sisters of Sanity" including Karen Thomas, Genie Joslin, Lynn McLean, Amy Cuellar, Jane Ann Leeves, Thelma Jean Goodrich and Charity Hammond (unless she has a mom duty!). They will share what brought them to their work and how their work and spiritual journeys relate to each other. - *Jane Ann Leeves*

Children & Youth Education - Room B, 2nd floor of the Fellowship Hall Building

Children and Youth Announcements

As we are getting ready to close out the school year, we would like to take the time to celebrate the graduates of our church. We will acknowledge our graduates and offer them a gift of celebration on June 5 during worship. If you or someone you know from Covenant is graduating, please reach out and let me know. My email is trena@covenanthouston.org and my number is 832-273-3895.

- June 5: Graduates of Covenant Celebration
- June 5: Youth Moving Forward Planning Meeting. If you are available, please join us. It will be a great conversation.
- June 11: Since we will not be attending Youth camp this year, we have planned a youth lock-in at the church.
 - We are planning a pool party for the Youth this summer as well. So please be on the lookout for some of that information.
- July 18-22: Children Camp will take place. The cost for Camp this year is \$300. Children's Camp will occur at Disciple's Crossing in Athens, TX.

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

Calendar

Sun, May 22	9:30 am	Adult Education, Adult Education classroom on the 2nd floor of the Fellowship Hall Building
	9:30 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Room B, 2nd floor of the Fellowship Hall Building
	9:30 am	Inquirer's Class, Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	10:20 am	Hospitality, Huff Fellowship Hall
	10:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:00 am	Worship in-person and via live-stream
	12:00 pm	Facilitated Mission/Vision Conversation, Huff Fellowship Hall

Tue, May 24	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, May 26	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom
Thur, May 26	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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.

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 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

Christopher Teel, Organist

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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.