



*A Service of Worship for
13 June 2021*

And you whose spirit is sad and unsure,
try to remember the very best parts of your life,
the loveliest feelings in your body self,
occasions of bold delight and quiet confidence,
moments of un-ambivalent commitment and unrestrained joy.
Try to remember when you have believed passionately in
something or someone human or divine.
Try to imagine that someone now believes in you
because she trusts your loveliest feelings,
commitments, confidence, joy.
She goes with us as we are called forth to go,
with one another,
evoked by historical memory and voices
audible only to ears that can hear the power of God in history.
Her name is love.

Carter Heyward

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Charles E. Peery

“Londonderry Gardens”

Call to Worship

†Opening Sentences

**In many ways, religion comes from
the same place in us that art comes from.
The language of the human heart is poetry.
Music is the language of the spirit.
The métier of religious ideas is
parable, verse, and story.
All of our names for God are metaphor—
necessary license, approximation, and analogy.
Our sacred texts burn with that knowledge
and dare us to use all of our faculties of
intelligence and experience and creativity.
But we forget this; our fact and
argument obsessed culture is deaf to it, blind to it.**

Scripture Lesson

Psalms 20

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Kingsfold

“Too Often, God, Your Name Is Used”

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

**Human existence cannot be silent,
nor can it be nourished by false words,
but only true words, with which men
and women and people of all genders transform the world.
To exist, humanly, is to name the world,
to change it. Human beings are not
built in silence, but in word, in work,
in action-reflection.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Antoine-Barthelemy Bruni

“Study No. 8”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Invitation

[†]Prayer of Dedication

**May one image of God
never appease us.
May one word of the holy
never suffice.
May uncountable names
and limitless forms
of the infinite God
find and delight 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 community of believers
is the place where we learn
the language of faith, hope, and love.
The speech and gestures of worship beckon us
to a dance between our woundings
at the edge of adventure
and experiences of bliss at the still center,
a rhythm of journeying and homecoming.**

Benediction

Postlude

Dale Wood

“Rhapsody”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Moses Mason**.

The prelude and postlude are played by The Bayou City Bells, **David Lee**, director.

The Call to Worship is from “Meditation after an Interview” by **Vassar Miller**.

The Opening Sentences are by Krista Tippett.

The text of "Too Often, God, Your Name Is Used" is by Thomas H. Troeger.

The Unison Confession is from “Pedagogy of the Oppressed” by Paolo Freire, as printed in *Imaging the Word, Vol. 3*.

“Study No. 8” played by **Jacy Grannis**, viola.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *In the Sanctuary of Women: A Companion for Reflection and Prayer* by Jan Richardson.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Active Spirituality* by Kent Ira Groff.

Education 9:00 - 9:40 a.m.

Adult Education recorded education sessions will be made available on this page: [Adult Education Recordings](#).

For Sunday's Adult Education, Karen Kline will tell the story of her spiritual journey, providing an opportunity for us to get better acquainted with a fully engaged member who joined Covenant shortly before the pandemic canceled our in-person services, but who has graced our worship services with her piano talent and our Adult Education program with her excellent ideas. Zoom in to learn about the journey that eventually brought her to Covenant.

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

Announcements

Sunday schedule for this Sunday:

9:00 - Adult Education with Zoom

10:00 - Worship via videos on the worship website

11:00 - Gather together for coffee time with Zoom

Calendar

Sun. June 13	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 am.	Coffee Time, Zoom Meeting
Mon. June 14	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Wed. June 16	7:00 p.m.	Covenant Singers, Zoom Meeting
Thur. June 17	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. June 17	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. June 18	1:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting

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

Andrew Bowen, Interim Organist

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.