



*A Service of Worship for
26 June 2022*

So keep fightin' for freedom and justice, beloveds,

but don't you forget to have fun doin' it.

Lord, let your laughter ring forth.

Be outrageous, rejoice in all the oddities that freedom can produce.

Molly Ivins

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921-1968)

“Tu Es Petrus”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #192

Michael

“God, Our Help and Constant Refuge”

+Opening Prayer

**May we learn to be open in love
so all the doors and windows
of our bodies swing wide
on their rusty hinges.**

**May we learn to give ourselves with both hands,
to lift each other on our shoulders,
to carry one another along.**

**May holiness move in us
so we pay attention to its small voice
and honor its light in each other.**

Scripture Lesson

1 Kings 17:8-24

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

†Response:

Don Schlosser

“One Spirit Sends Us Onward”

MERLE'S TUNE

One Spir - it sends us on - ward in wit - ness to the earth,
as min - is - ters of jus - tice and mid - wives for re - birth:
to lead the church with cour - age on ven - tures new - be - gun,
re - formed yet still re - form - ing, 'til God's whole will is done.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff.

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

O God of Freedom, we are free to love because you are love.

Free us from being hard to love, hard to forgive, hard to enjoy.

Free us from sitting in the darkness of our despair rather than standing in the light of your confidence.

Free us from grasping for the past so that we miss the present.

Free us from grasping for the new before we learn to appreciate the old.

Free us from the way we distort our faith and from the inconsistencies that mark our lives.

Free us from the fear of change that we may fight for the changes that are needed.

Free us from the dread of death that we may live eternal life now.

**O God of Freedom, free us to hope as we live
in the hope expressed in Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

“O Rest in the Lord”

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for God,
and God shall give thee thy heart's desires.
Commit thy way to justice, and trust in God;
and be not discouraged because of evil doers.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #286

St. Bride

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Jehan Alain
(1911-1940)

“Berceuse sur deux notes qui cornent”

+Prayer of Dedication

**God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are instead of the way you
would have them to be, forgive us.**

Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you.

**Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us the more excellent
way that your love requires.**

**Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our
hope.**

**Whenever we forget those who have gone before us or act as if we were the first to
follow in the way of peace, allow us to recognize our arrogance.**

May the resources of our faith encourage us to dream again.

Amen.

+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

We affirm the unfailing renewal of life.

**Rising from the earth, and reaching for the sun,
all living creatures shall fulfill themselves.**

We affirm the steady growth of human companionship.

**Rising from ancient cradles and reaching for the stars,
people the world over shall seek the ways of understanding.**

We affirm a continuing hope.

**That out of every tragedy the spirits of individuals
shall rise to build a better world.**

+Closing Hymn #543

“Abide with Me” (v. 1-3)

Eventide

Benediction

Postlude

“Menuet Gothique”

Léon Boëllman
(1862-1897)

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Roger Bumgardner**.

The Call to Worship is adapted from Gates of Prayer, The New Union Prayer Book, Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The Opening Prayer is a prayer by Dawna Markova in *Prayers for Healing*, edited by Maggie Oman.

The Unison Confession is by Janice Ramsey.

Dale Thomas is the soloist singing “O Rest in the Lord.”

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from a prayer by J. Bennett Guess.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Leonard Mason in *Singing the Living Tradition, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Hymnal*.

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

Move Members Move: Alvin Ailey’s Revelations

This Sunday, Linda Phenix will lead education hour with a focus on “Move Members Move,” which is the third section of Alvin Ailey’s signature ballet Revelations. This section includes the propulsive men’s trio “Sinner Man” and the rousing three-part “Yellow” section, which is a kind of choral church celebration performed by eighteen dancers. Set in a southern Baptist rural church, the final section of Revelations is stirring, joyful and never fails to bring audiences to their feet.

Linda will talk about how Revelations evolved from a 65-minute dance with live music into a 36-minute dance performed to recorded music. She will discuss the contributions of choral conductor Howard Roberts. His gorgeous arrangements are prominent in the edited version of Revelations, which was first performed at Jacob’s Pillow in 1961. Video excerpts from a 2020 performance of Revelations by the Ailey company will be shown and followed by facilitated discussion.

- Linda Phenix

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

Children and Youth Announcements

- **TBA:** 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

Announcements

Calendar

Sun, June 26	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
	10:20 am	Hospitality, Huff Fellowship Hall
	11:00 am	Worship in-person and via live-stream
Tue, June 28	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, June 30	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom

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.