

*You are invited to participate in the
Organization Service of the
COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH
1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 13, 1965
The Chapel, St. John the Divine*

***A Service of Worship for
Celebration of Covenant's Founding
6 June 2021***

Covenant is:

C

community
caring
communication

O

outstanding people and kids
offering love

V

village for all
vastly improving love
very helpful

E

everyone is allowed
educational
encouraging

N

nice
not to be missed

A

all together
a happy place to be
amazing worship services

N

nourishing
knowledge

T

together
talented
though small, lots of love

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

“God’s Time is Best”

Call to Worship

+Opening Sentences

This day we celebrate our founding in 1965.

**This day we celebrate our continuing efforts at
community, love, fellowship, giving, peace,
education, justice, and following in the way of Jesus.**

We celebrate:

- **a community and support that has surpassed
all my expectations and been there
for me when I needed it most.**
- **the knowledge that I am not alone in my questions,
the confidence to wonder and talk openly about beliefs.**
- **astounding gifts of music**
- **a chance to be a part of the Conversation**

At Covenant, I feel at home.

**Here I am loved and appreciated,
just for being myself.**

Here I am free to learn and grow and give.

**The beauty and inspiration of this is the very
real energy I feel as I walk alongside others who are
learning and growing and giving of
who they themselves are.**

We help and inspire one another!

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-20 and Mark 4:26-32

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Canonbury

“Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

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

**For the two thousand nine hundred
and twelfth time we as a gathered congregation
evoke the healing breath of God.**

**May the wisdom of the past,
the willingness of the present,
and the wonder of the future fill our hearts
as we seek to climb out of the commonplace.**

**Let us rise to worship God so that next week
we can do the common task of minding our
little piece of God’s unending creation.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Rob Landes

“I Will Pour Out My Spirit”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Prayer

Invitation

+Prayer of Dedication

**Today we remember a covenant with Noah and his family:
“Though the mountains be departed and the hills be removed,
my covenant of peace will not depart from you,**

says the Lord, who has mercy on you.”

We remember a covenant with Abraham and Sarah:

**“Go to the land that I will show you and
I will bless you and you shall be a blessing.”**

**We remember a covenant with Moses, Miriam, Aaron
and all of the Hebrew people:**

“You will be my people and I will be your God.”

We remember a covenant with Jesus,

**“This is the cup of the new covenant.
As often as you drink it remember me.”**

God covenants with us for peace, blessing, belonging, and grace.

**We are part of these covenants, O God,
and we create new promises with you and with each other.**

We gather this day as individuals and as one body - our church.

**We gather to celebrate the covenants made fifty-six years ago:
promises that created this church.**

**We gather to celebrate the covenants that continue:
promises of community and compassion.**

**Continue to journey with us, creative God,
help us to work with you to create peace,
blessing, belonging, and grace.**

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

Covenant Affirms:

**The loving presence of God,
the life and teachings of Jesus,
and the revealed Spirit
throughout the ages.**

**The sanctity, dignity, and equality
of human beings and the value
of all life in the universe.**

**Truth as an ongoing process,
and the necessity to be explorers in the continuing
discovery of faith and understanding.**

The practice of inclusivity in worship

**and in all other aspects of our corporate life.
The importance of passing on our knowledge
and an understanding of traditions.**

Benediction

Postlude

Johannes Brahms

“Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Jay Hooker**.

The prelude and postlude are played by Andrew Bowen, organ.

The Call to Worship was created from responses sent in by members of the Covenant Community.

The Opening Sentences were created from responses sent in by members of the Covenant Community.

The Unison Confession is by **John Pirtle** and updated for our fifty-sixth birthday.

“I Will Pour Out My Spirit” sung by The Covenant Singers, June 7, 2015, **Fran Avera**, directing.

Proclamation participants are **Sean Alexander, Sebastian Alexander, Eric Avera, Fran Avera, Jim Avera, Jodi Bash, Michelle Bennack, Melissa Bernardoni, Emma Bond, Hank Bond, Charlie Burgess, Russell Clark, Gene Cope, Ruddy Cravens, Sebastian Cuellar, Clinton Gambill, Lewis Garvin, Jay Hooker, Blakeley Kress, Byron Kress, Kristy Kyle, David Lee, Laura Mayo, Ruben Milano, Reagan Miller, Jeff Nobles, Casey Okabayashi, Linda Phenix, Ann Pirtle, John Pirtle, Nancy Preston, Nick Stepp, K.T. Tilford, Virginia Wells**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by **Laura Mayo**, created for our 50th anniversary celebration and updated for this service.

The Affirmation of Faith is from the 1989 Covenant Mission Statement.

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

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

The Adult Education offering for Sunday, June 6, will be a presentation by Dr. Carolyn Roberts, a Yale University professor in the Department of History/History of Science and Medicine, the Department of African American Studies, and the Yale School of Medicine Section on the History of Medicine. The title of her talk is “Histories of Harm: Race, Medicine and COVID-19 in Historical Perspective.” She offers this description: "Black people in the United States have had a tumultuous relationship with American medicine for hundreds of years. The crisis caused by COVID-19 offers a critical opportunity to consider the historical legacies that have shaped health disparities. In this talk, we will discuss how the history of slavery, the slave trade and

segregation caused medical harm and distrust. Yet, this is also a history of resilience and resistance. Black people then, and now, have utilized their knowledge, resources and ingenuity to endure.”

We have Jim Avera to thank for making the committee aware of Dr. Roberts, a dear friend of his, and for making her aware of Covenant Church and pleased to visit with our class on Sunday morning.

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 communion/coffee time with Zoom

Calendar

Sun. June 6	9:00 a.m.	Worship Online
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 am.	Coffee Time w/Communion, Zoom Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Pride Decoration & Youth Mentor Activity
Mon. Jun 7	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Jun 10	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Jun 10	7:15 p.m.	Covenant Singers Rehearsal
Thur. Jun 10	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Jun 11	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.