



*A Service of Worship for
10 July 2022*

Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God.

I know that when I pray, something wonderful happens.
Not just to the person or persons for whom I'm praying,
but also something wonderful happens to me.
I'm grateful that I'm heard.

Maya Angelou

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)

“Trumpet Voluntary in D Major”

Call to Worship

*+ Opening Hymn

Stuttgart

“Lord, You Sometimes Speak in Wonders”

**Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders
unmistakable and clear;
mighty signs to prove your presence,
overcoming doubt and fear.**

**Lord, you sometimes speak in whispers,
still and small and scarcely heard;
only those who want to listen
catch the all-important word.**

**Lord, you sometimes speak in silence,
through our loud and noisy day:
we can know and trust you better
when we quietly wait and pray.**

**Lord, you often speak in Scripture,
words that summon from the page,
shown and taught us by your Spirit
with fresh light for every age.**

**Lord, you always speak in Jesus,
always new yet still the same;
teach us now more of our Savior;
make our lives display his Name.**

⁺Opening Sentences

**In this familiar place, listen:
to the sounds of breathing, creaking chairs,
shuffling feet, clearing throats, and sighing all around
Know that each breath, movement, the glance
meant for you or intercepted
holds a life within it.**

**These are signs
that we choose to be in this company
have things to say to each other
things not yet said but in each other's presence still
trembling behind our heart's doors
these doors closed but unlocked
each silent thing waiting
on the threshold between knowing and unknowing,
between being hidden and being known.**

**Find the silence among these people
and listen to it all – breathing, sighs,
movement, holding back –
hear the tears that have not yet reached their eyes
perhaps they are your own
hear also the laughter building deep where joy abides
despite everything.
Listen: rejoice. And say Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

1 Kings 19:1-15

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

+Response:

Merle's Tune

**One Spirit sends us onward in witness to the earth,
as ministers of justice and midwives for rebirth:
to lead the church with courage on ventures new begun,
reformed yet still reforming, 'til God's whole will is done.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Maker of the universe,
fashioner of the stars,
who dwells within time and beyond time,
hear this prayer:**

**if I have failed to perceive you
when you have appeared
in the face of a friend,**

**if I have neglected to feed you
when you have come
with the hunger of a stranger,**

**if I have not embraced you when you have sought me out
of a sister or brother's poverty,**

**if I have not laughed and played with you
when you greeted me with the delight of a child,
forgive me.**

**Open my eyes, my hands, my arms, my heart
to know your appearing and to celebrate
the flesh-shaped mystery of Emmanuel,
God with us.**

Words of Assurance

+Hymn #345

Rest

“Dear Lord, Creator, Good and Kind”

**Dear Lord, Creator, good and kind,
forgive our foolish ways; Re-clothe us in our
rightful mind, in purer lives thy
service find, in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea, the gracious calling
of the Lord, let us, like them
without a word, rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O
calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to
share with thee the silence of
eternity, interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness, till
all our strivings cease; take from our souls the
strain and stress, and let our ordered
lives confess the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire thy
coolness and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let
flesh retire; speak through the earthquake,
wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.**

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #272

Roeder

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

**God of the sparrow
God of the whale**

God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Prayer

Invitation

Offering
Offertory

Henry Purcell

“March from *Harpsichord Sonata*”

+Prayer of Dedication

**Listen to me, God,
as a Mother,
and hold me warm,
and forgive me.
Soften my experiences
into wisdom,
my pride
into acceptance,
my longing
into trust,
and soften me
into love
and to others
and to you.**

+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

**Let us pray that we may notice and accept the Divinity of tiny things
the Divine of ordinary miracles and even in the awkward mistakes.
In frivolous conversation with friends
in wordless companionship with a loved one
in the work that seems futile one day
but resonates with meaning the next.
In the shared meal, and the shopping list
In the peaceful sleep**

in the simple procession of the spring days.

We pray this moment to keep tender vigil over our precious, imperfect lives.

To know each one as a vessel, however cracked or broken, of the Holy.

So may we strive to recognize the indwelling presence of God in all people,

in all living things, and even in ourselves. Amen.

⁺Closing Hymn #374

Dickinson College

“Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace”

**Lord, make us servants of Your peace;
Where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive;
Where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
Where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light;
Where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
To be consoled, but to console,
Nor look to understanding hearts,
But look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love’s return,
But seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving we receive,
And in forgiving are forgiv’n.**

Benediction

Postlude

Henry Purcell

“Trumpet Tune in D Major”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Lewis Garvin**.

The Call to Worship is from *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott.

The Opening Sentences are from “Prayer for Those Gathered in Worship” by Barbara Pescan.

The Unison Confession is from *Sacred Journeys: A Woman’s Book of Daily Prayer* by Jan L. Richardson.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Guerrillas of Grace* by Ted Loder.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from a prayer by Victoria Weinstein.

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

Adult Education - For the Sunday School hour, I propose to create space for participants through a SEL/Mindfulness ARC. We will begin with mindfulness breathing and movement in order to connect with each other. We will discover creative ways of taking care of ourselves while connecting with others. These activities will involve creating an art design both F2F and virtually, sharing what we created. At all times, we will be reminded we are not alone by using mindfulness strategies to take good care of ourselves.

- *Laura Mitchell*

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

Children and Youth Announcements

Summer Activities

- **July 10, 9:30am** - Bags for the Hungry
- **July 13** - Youth Movie Day
- **July 17, 1pm** - Children's Splash Day at Discovery Green
- **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.
- July 30 - Covenant Children Youth Lock-In
- **August 14, 12:30pm** - Children & Youth Picnic

Hi Friends and Families of Covenant,

As August approaches, we would like to get the Mentor and Youth program started. If you would like to volunteer your time and be a mentor to some of our fantastic youth at Covenant Church, please reach out to Trena' Jamison, the Director of Children and Youth, at 832-273-3895 or Trena@CovenantHouston.org.
- Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth

Announcements

Calendar

Sun, July 10	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, July 12	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, July 14	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

*Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a
concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411,
Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a
concealed handgun.*

*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.*