



*A Service of Worship for  
11 July 2021*

Change  
Here we are—  
Energy,  
Mass,  
Life,  
Shaping life,  
Mind,  
Shaping Mind  
God,  
Shaping God.

Consider—  
We are born  
Not with purpose,  
But with potential.

All that you touch  
You Change.

All that you Change  
Changes you.

The only lasting truth  
Is Change.

God  
Is Change.

Octavia Butler

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!  
**And also with you!**

Ring in the hour  
Silence is kept

Prelude

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Cindy Berry

“Wayfarin' Stranger”

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #181

“Come Sing to God”

Ellacombe

+Opening Prayer

**Spirit of life and love, we have gathered here in search of answers to hard questions.  
We have come in search of understanding, in search of community.  
We have come in search of hope and healing.**

**Let this be a place not only of searching, but of discovery.  
Let this be a place not only of learning, but of wisdom.  
Let this be a place not only of meeting, but of connection.  
And let this be a place where healing fosters giving and hope fosters service.**

**This is our prayer: that we may create here a circle of love,  
ever expanding, ever growing, as we seek to know you,  
the source of our being.**

**Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

2 Samuel 6:1-19

These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Life is, or should be, nothing but a struggle to seek truth:  
yet what we seek is really the truth that we already possess.  
Truth is mine in the reality of life as it is given to me to live:  
yet to take life thoughtlessly, passively as it comes,  
is to renounce the struggle that is necessary.  
The worst temptation. . . is simply to give up asking and seeking.**

Words of Assurance

Music

“Oh God, My God”

Iona Community

Proclamation

Hymn

“Like Miriam Who Danced to Praise”

Forest Green

**Like Miriam who danced to praise  
the parting of the sea,  
and David, who before the ark,  
danced on with ecstasy,  
God, pour your spirit into us,  
fill us with joy as well,  
that we may also join the dance  
and all your praises tell.**

**Like prophets dancing to your tune  
before a royal throne,  
or marching to a freedom song  
or standing firm alone,  
God, send us visions of your will,  
reveal to us your Word,  
that we may bravely dance our role  
and speak what we have heard.**

**Like those who danced with Jesus Christ,  
until his life was done,  
then carried on the dance of love  
that he had just begun,  
God, fill us with their loyalty  
and passion for their Friend,**

**that we may follow in their steps  
to joy that has no end.**

Silent Reflection

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Traditional Spirit  
arr. Betty Jean Chatham

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

+Prayer of Dedication

**God of yesterday and tomorrow:  
Always you startle us into new understandings  
just when we think we have it all sorted out.  
Startle us again.  
Break open our preconceptions and confound our pat answers,  
that we might be gifted with new vision. 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 have entered into a new consciousness of God...  
we are now God's dwelling place.  
There is no supernatural deity beyond the sky working miracles.  
There is only a God-infused humanity through whom  
the Source of Life, the Source of Love, and the Ground of Being lives.  
We are the God-bearers of the world.  
We must rise to this new vocation.  
For in each of us is the promise of “Emmanuel,”  
which means God with us.  
The only way that God can be with us  
now and through the ages  
is for each of us to allow God  
to live and love through us,**

**through our humanity.**

†Closing Hymn #263

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

St. Denio

Benediction

Postlude

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven”

William Moore  
arr. Cindy Berry

### **Worship Notes**

The worship leader is **Dale Thomas**.

The guest proclaimer is **Lewis Garvin**.

The banner was created by **Nancy Henry**.

The prelude, offertory, and postlude are played by **Karen Kline**, piano.

The Call to Worship is from *The Heart Is a Little to the Left* by William Sloane Coffin.

The Opening Prayer is a prayer of Sue Ayer from the *1997 Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association Worship Materials Collection*.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* by Thomas Merton.

The text of “O God, My God” is by John Bell.

The text of “Like Miriam Who Danced to Praise” is by Mary Nelson Keithahn.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Refreshing Rains of the Living Word* by Lavon Bayler.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *The Sins of Scripture: Exposing the Bible's Text of Hate to Reveal the God of Love* by John Shelby Spong.

Please note: There are restrooms upstairs. We ask that you use those during the service.

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

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

For the adult education class for Sunday, July 11, Dr. Jane Ann Leeves will extend her well-received presentation about bipolar disorder, providing an overview of the condition, the importance of reducing the stigma associated with this disorder, and offering further account of her own personal experience with BPD.

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

## Announcements

### **Sunday schedule for this Sunday:**

Adult Education (Zoom) 9am

Worship in-person (Covenant) 11am

Worship live-stream 11am (<https://youtu.be/aLSFXDDAXvg>)

## Calendar

Sun. July 11	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 a.m.	Worship live-stream
Mon. July 12	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 15	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 15	7:15 p.m.	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Thur. July 15	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. July 16	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](mailto:Office@covenanthouston.org).

**Newsletter:** To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto: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

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

*4949 Caroline Street*

*Houston, Texas 77004*

*713-668-8830*

*[office@covenanthouston.org](mailto:office@covenanthouston.org)*

*[www.covenanthouston.org](http://www.covenanthouston.org)*

*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.*