



*A Service of Worship for  
25 July 2021*

To hope means to be ready at every moment  
for that which is not yet born...

There is no sense hoping  
for that which already exists  
or for that which cannot be.

Those whose hope is weak  
settle down for comfort or for violence;  
those whose hope is strong  
see and cherish all signs of new life  
and are ready every moment  
to help the birth of that  
which is ready to be born.

Erich Fromm

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ring in the hour  
Silence is kept

Prelude

Daniel Iverson  
arr. Stephen Nielsen

“Spirit of the Living God”

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #303

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Aberystwyth

+Opening Prayer

**Welcome to this place of possibility!  
This is love’s hearth, the home of hope,  
a refuge for minds in search of truth unfolding, ever beautiful,  
ever strange.  
Here, compassion is our shelter,  
freedom, our protection from the storms of bigotry and hate.  
In this place, may we find comfort and courage.  
Here may our sight become vision to see the unseen,  
to glimpse the good that is yet to be.**

Scripture Lesson

Mark 4:35-41

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

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

“Prayer for Guidance”

Allen Pote

Proclamation

Hymn

“O Teacher, Don't You Care?”

Leoni

**“O Teacher, don't you care?” the Lord's disciples cried.  
“The waves are beating everywhere — We'll surely die!”  
They called to him in dread, for mighty storms could kill.  
Then Jesus spoke into the fury, “Peace! Be still!”**

**Lord, still the storm winds blow, and still we cry in fear:  
We too are sinking, don't you know? Lord, are you here?  
We seek to live your way, yet sorrows beat us down.  
We feel alone and wonder: Where can peace be found?**

**Your church, your little boat, is struggling in the seas.  
We question if we'll stay afloat in times like these.  
The world is raging round; there's trouble everywhere.  
When we are facing mighty storms, Lord, hear our prayer.**

**What strength and love you've shown! So calm your church's fear.  
Remind us that we're not alone, for you are here.  
And though the waves are strong and winds blow where they will,  
Your peaceful presence in our lives is greater still.**

Silent Reflection

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Traditional  
arr. Paul Johnston

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

†Prayer of Dedication

Leader: God of Peace and Love, we bring our prayers to you,  
trusting in your grace and mercy.

We pray for peace among the nations,  
where neighbour fights neighbour over politics and religion,  
rising up against each other over power and resources,

**People: Christ speaks: Peace, be still!**

Leader: We pray for peace among the governments of the world,  
where policies and laws bring conflict and strife,  
needs of the many, dominated by the wants of a few,

**People: Christ speaks: Peace, be still!**

Leader: We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons,  
That rather than the dropping of bombs and the shooting of guns,  
there will be the sharing of bread,

**People: Christ speaks: Peace, be still!**

Leader: We pray for peace among the world,  
wherever diversity creates hatred and fear,  
wherever difference divides and creates social enemies,

**People: Christ speaks: Peace, be still!**

We pray for peace within homes,  
wherever there is violence and abuse within the family,  
wherever there is provocation that leads to insult or injury,

**People: Christ speaks: Peace, be still!**

**Breathe upon us the gentleness of your peace.**

**Inflame our hearts with a desire for your justice.**

**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

**Peace always seems  
a weary way off.**

**As Jeremiah lamented,  
“We looked for peace,  
but no peace came.”**

**But to give up on peace  
is to give up on God.**

+Closing Hymn #295

“O God of Love, O God of Peace”

Du Meiner Seelen

Benediction

Postlude

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson  
arr. Dan Coates

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

## **Worship Notes**

The worship leader is **Dennis Robinson**.

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

The prelude, offertory, and postlude are played by Ginger Anderson, our guest pianist.

The Call to Worship is "Meditation" by John Johansen-Berg.

The Opening Prayer is from Marianne Hachten Cotter in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings for Family, Individual, and Small Group Worship*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The Unison Confession is by St. Francis Assisi.

"Prayer for Guidance" is sung by **Emily Holien** and **David Ramsey**.

The text of "O Teacher, Don't You Care?" is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

The Prayer of Dedication is "Litany of World Peace" by Susan Pickering.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Credo* by William Sloane Coffin.

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](#).

The Adult Education class for July 25 will be a second lecture on by Yale Professor Christine Hayes about how the Hebrew Bible took its final form. This one focuses on the basic development in "Old Testament" studies known as the Documentary Hypothesis, which contends the the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, was not written by Moses but was pieced together from several different sources. Professor Hayes explains how the hypothesis developed in the 18th and 19th centuries among European scholars and how it has been revised in the 20th and 21st centuries. If you are not familiar with this hypothesis, you can find one of the earliest clues that gave rise to it by noticing the different names given to God in chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis.

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 25	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 26	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 27	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. July 27	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. July 29	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

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*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.*