



*A Service of Worship for
3 July 2022*

Courage is a heart word.

The root of the word courage is cor - the Latin word for heart.

In one of its earliest forms, the word courage meant

“To speak one's mind by telling all one's heart.”

Over time, this definition has changed,

and today, we typically associate courage with heroic and brave deeds.

But in my opinion, this definition fails to recognize

the inner strength and level of commitment

required for us to actually speak honestly and openly

about who we are and about our experiences – good and bad.

Speaking from our hearts is what I think of as ordinary courage.

Brené Brown

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

“Chorale Prelude on 'Lord God, We All Praise Thee’”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #452

St. Michael

“O Day of God Draw Nigh”

**O day of God, draw nigh
In beauty and in power,
Come with your timeless judgment now
To match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,
Uncertain and afraid,
The quiet of a steadfast faith,
Calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,
That all may dwell secure,
And finely build for days to come
Foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife
Your sovereign word of peace,
That war may haunt the earth no more
And desolation cease.**

**O day of God draw nigh
As at creation's birth;
Let there be light again, and set
Your judgments in the earth.**

⁺Opening Prayer

**Defender of the oppressed and the orphan,
we pray for all children in our nation
and our world who suffer from poverty, injustice, and fear.
Hear the cries of your children, O God.
For children who are runaways, homeless, in institutions, or jails,
In your tender mercy, protect them, God.
For children who are disabled in mind or body,
In your tender mercy, encourage and strengthen them, O God
For children who this day will not have enough to eat,
In your tender mercy, provide them food, O God.
For babies born at risk, for children who are sick, and for those who
lack proper health care, especially pregnant teenagers,
In your tender mercy, help and sustain them, O God.
For children who are victims of race or class discrimination,
poor education, drug or alcohol abuse, and hopelessness,
In your tender mercy, grant them lives of hope and a future, O God.
For children who daily experience the fear
and pain of war and civil strife,
In your tender mercy, defend and protect them, O God.**

Scripture Lesson

Luke 7:36 - 8:3

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

⁺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

**Forgive us when we live vicariously, O God,
when we let others show our outrage,
let others experience what should be our own excitement and fear,
let others pay the price of loving while we watch.**

**For all the ways in which we think knowing about something is enough,
forgive us.**

**For all the ways in which we let glib and radical talk suffice rather than
exploring
the pain and grief in our hearts and in our world with integrity,
forgive us.**

**For all the ways in which we burden our sisters and brothers with our
curiosity and
deny them our concern, forgive us.**

**We pray through him who always not only saw but also moved out in
passion
to the lonely and the pained – and healed them. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Gabriel Fauré

“Pie Jesu”

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Merciful Jesus, Grant them rest everlasting.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #298

In Babilone

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment
given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Johann Heinrich Buttstedt
(1666-1727)

“Fughetta on Blessed Are You, Jesus Christ”

+Prayer of Dedication

**May the anger of Christ be mine,
When the world grows hard and greedy;
when the rich have no care for the poor,
when the powerful take from the needy.**

**May the compassion of Christ be mine,
when the outstretched hand's not taken,
when the jobless stand in line,
when the lonely live forsaken.**

**May the love of Christ be mine
for the anguished, for the ailing,
for the frail, difficult life,
for the fallen, for the failing.**

**May the actions of Christ be mine,
bringing hope, bringing new direction;
making peace in a warring time,
offering welcome, not rejection.**

+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 covenant with one another

**to seek for an ever deeper awareness
of that which springs upwardly in us.
Even when our hearts are broken
by our own failure
or the failing of others
cutting into our lives,
Even when we have done all we can
and life is still broken,
there is a Universal Love
that has never broken faith with us
and never will.**

**This is the ground of our hope,
and the reason we can be bold
in seeking to fulfill the promise.**

“Live Into Hope”

**Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God’s own jubilee!**

**Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear —
A vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one’s daily bread,
To hear God’s word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.**

Benediction

Postlude

Johann Pachelbel

“Fughetta on A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Heather Laureles**.

The Call to Worship is from “Finding Meaning in the Second Half of Life” by James Hollis.

The Opening Prayer was written for National Children's Day, June 1982, adapted by Jann Cather Weaver.

The Unison Confession is from a Covenant Order of Worship, November 12, 1978.

Candy Luedde is the soprano soloist.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Colin Gibson in *Dare to Dream: A Prayer and Worship Anthology from Around the World* edited by Geoffrey Duncan.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Rebecca Parker in “What They Dreamed by Ours to Do,” an article in the collection *Redeeming Time*.

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

Adult Education - Adult Ed will not meet on July 3 due to the Independence Day holiday. We will resume on Sunday, July 10.

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

Children and Youth Announcements

Summer Activities

- **July 10, 8am - 12pm** - Houston Food Bank
- **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 3	9:30 am	No Adult Education
	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 5	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, July 7	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.*