



*A Service of Worship for
31 July 2022*

“It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves.

One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret,
greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt,
resentment, inferiority, lies,
false pride, superiority and ego.”

He continued, “The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope,
serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence,
empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person too.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute
and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?”

The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Craig Sellar Lang
(1891-1971)

“Tuba Tune”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #422

Beach Spring

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly grace, grave’s shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.**

**Treasure too You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.**

+Opening Sentences

**I dream a world where one human
No other will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every human is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head,
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all humankind**

Scripture Lesson

Luke 12:13-21

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

**Save us, our compassionate Lord,
from our folly by your wisdom,
from our arrogance by your forgiving love,
from our greed by your infinite bounty,
and from our insecurity by your healing power.**

Words of Assurance

Music

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

Robert Lau

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn

“If Only I Had Known”

Leoni

**“If only I had known the cost of human greed,
Perhaps I would have reached out more to those in need.
But now I see the truth across the great divide!
If only I had known and changed,” the rich man cried.**

**If only we could see which bargains in the store
Are made in dismal sweatshops that oppress the poor.
For each subsistence wage — each tiny, crippling stitch —
Makes wider the divide between the poor and rich.**

**And, too, if we could hear a mother's lullaby;
She's singing now to calm her hungry toddler's cry.
For rich ones came one day, took land and water rights,
And left the poor with hopeless days and hungry nights.**

**If only we could learn what keeps us wanting more:
We build our bigger barns so we'll feel more secure.
But you alone, O God, give true security;
Possessed by our possessions, we cannot be free.**

**O Christ, if we could know God's will for all the earth!
And yet, by your own Spirit, you have shown God's truth:
"Do justice, help the poor, share life and love and land,
And when you see the hungry, open wide your hand."**

Prayer

Invitation

Offering
Offertory

George Frederic Handel
(1685-1759)

"Largo in G"

+Prayer of Dedication

**Our gifts
whatever we discover them to be
can be used to bless or curse the world.
The mind's power,
The strength of the hands,
The reaches of the heart,
the gift of speaking, listening, imagining, seeing, waiting.
Any of these can serve to feed the hungry,
bind up wounds,
welcome the stranger,
praise what is sacred,
do the work of justice,
or offer love.**

**We must answer this question:
What will we do with our gifts?
Let us choose to bless the world.**

+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 seek peace with all people.
We affirm that security rests not in armaments.
We seek a just economic order
in which everyone has access to the abundance of the earth.
We seek justice in human relationships.
We choose struggle rather than indifference.
We choose to be citizens rather than subjects.
We choose to be friends of the earth, not exploiters.
We choose to be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers.
We join other communities resisting the threat of hunger and injustice.
Before us today are set life and death.
We unite to resist the powers of death;
We choose life that we and our children may live.**

+Closing Hymn #405

Sharpthorne

“What Does the Lord Require”

**What does the Lord require for praise and offering?
What sacrifice desire, or tribute bid you bring?
Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?
Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will with grace to fortify.
Then justly, in mercy, we'll humbly walk with God.**

Benediction

Postlude

Antonio Soler

(1729-1783)

“The Emperor’s Fanfare” *from Sixth Double Concerto*

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **David Lee**.

The guest proclaimer is **Mauricio Cuellar**.

The Call to Worship is “Merger Poem” by Judy Chicago from *Life Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Opening Sentences are “I Dream A World” by Langston Hughes.

The Unison Confession is a Muslim prayer from *Singing the Living Tradition, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal*.

The singers are **Jay Hooker, Drew McDiarmid, Shannon Stewart, and K.T. Tilford**, accompanied by **Karen Kline**.

The text of “If Only I Had Known” is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Deacon **Annie Christensen** gives the prayer.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from “Benediction” in *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now* by Rebecca Parker

The Affirmation of Faith is by Warren Talbot.

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

Adult Education - This Sunday we will continue our big picture contemplation of a universe created as a home for communion with God. We will view a 2019 Theo Ed talk, “Reimagining an Ancient God”, by author and podcaster Pete Enns.

- *Bill Kline*

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

Children and Youth Announcements

Summer Activities

- **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 31	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
	12:00 pm	Business Meeting, Huff Fellowship Hall
Tue, Aug 2	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, Aug 4	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

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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.