



*A Service of Worship for
1 August 2021*

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

James Vila Blake

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

John Wyeth/Cindy Berry

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn # 343

Beecher

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

+Opening Prayer

**Spirit of life, be present with us this hour.
Join us today as we gather
in a wider search for truth and purpose.
In this quest, may we greet one another
with open hearts and minds;
may we inspire each other
to consider new questions
and seek deeper meaning;
and may we cultivate wisdom and compassion.
Let all who enter this sanctuary
see a welcome face,
hear a kind word,
and find comfort in this community.
And may all that is done and said here today
be in service to love and justice.**

Scripture Lesson

1 Kings 8:1-43 and 1 Peter 2:1-4

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

Eternal God,

Forgive us when we separate ourselves from you--

when we pay attention to our agenda

and overlook someone who is trying to speak to us,

when we laud the best examples of your love--

Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jesus the Christ,

and we forget

that our lives matter.

Forgive us, Gracious God,

when we, at Covenant,

even as we gather together,

forget to think, to hope, past ourselves.

Encourage us, God

to be attentive to your word

that is spoken in the lives around us,

to dare to involve ourselves

in some desire greater than ourselves. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Music

Ralph Vaughan Williams

“O How Amiable”

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:

even thy altars, O God of hosts, my maker and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:

They will be always praising thee.

The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:

prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.

O God, our help in ages past,

Our hope for years to come,

Be Thou our guide while life shall last,

And our eternal home.

Proclamation

Hymn # 417

Regent Square

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation - verses 1 and 2”

Silent Reflection

Prayer

Invitation and Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

Johann Lohner/Terry Oscan

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”

+Prayer of Dedication

**Let us covenant with one another
to keep faith with the source of life
knowing that we are not our own,
earth made us.**

**Let us covenant with one another
to keep faith with the community of resistance
never to forget that life can be saved
from that which threatens it
by even small bands of people
choosing to put into practice
an alternative way of life.**

**And, 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
of 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.**

*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

**Why do you go to the forest in search of the Divine?
God lives in all, and abides with you too.
As fragrance dwells in a flower, or reflection in a mirror,
so the Divine dwells inside everything;
seek therefore in your own heart.**

+Closing Hymn # 552

Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvögelein

“Give Thanks, O Christian People”

Benediction

Postlude

John Darwell/Cindy Berry

“Arabesque on Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Dennis Robinson**.

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

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

The Call to Worship are from words written into leaves by the congregation during the 2010 Covenant Stewardship campaign.

The Opening Prayer is by Kathy Huff.

The Unison Confession is by **Jeannie Gambill**.

"O How Amiable" is sung by **David Lee**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Rebecca Parker in "What They Dreamed by Ours to Do", an article in the collection *Redeeming Time*.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Tegh Bahadur, of the Sikh religion, as reprinted from *Singing the Living Tradition*.

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 August 1, still Zoomed, will feature a Bible knowledge quiz, led by your genial host, Bill Martin. We won't choose sides or award prizes, but it should be interesting and fun. Because we are an ecumenical church, drawing on varied traditions, this will not involve Sword Drill, which would give lifetime Baptists an unfair advantage.

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. Aug. 1	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 a.m.	Worship live-stream
Mon. Aug. 2	1:00 p.m.	Book Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Aug. 5	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Aug. 5	8:00 p.m.	Community Group w/Communion and breakout rooms, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Aug. 6	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.

Newsletter: To subscribe to the newsletter, send a request to office@covenanthouston.org.

Office Hours: The church office is currently not open, but we are responding to emails and phone calls.

Restrooms: An all gender restroom is located in the Huff Fellowship Hall; a women's restroom and a men's restroom are located in the sanctuary building; individual all gender restrooms are on the second floor of the fellowship hall building.

*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 30.07, 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.