



*A Service of Worship for
7 August 2022*

Both Sides Now

Rows and flows of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere
I've looked at clouds that way

But now they only block the sun
They rain and they snow on everyone
So many things I would have done
But clouds got in my way

I've looked at clouds from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow
It's cloud illusions I recall
I really don't know clouds at all

Moons and Junes and Ferris wheels
The dizzy dancing way that you feel
As every fairy tale comes real
I've looked at love that way

But now it's just another show
And you leave 'em laughing when you go
And if you care, don't let them know
Don't give yourself away

I've looked at love from both sides now
From give and take and still somehow
It's love's illusions that I recall
I really don't know love
Really don't know love at all

Tears and fears and feeling proud
To say, "I love you" right out loud
Dreams and schemes and circus crowds
I've looked at life that way

And they shake their heads and they tell me that
I've changed
Well something's lost, but somethings gained
In living every day

I've looked at life from both sides now
From win and lose and still somehow
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life at all

It's life's illusions that I recall
I really don't know life
I really don't know life at all

Joni Mitchell

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Marc-Antoine Charpentier
(1643-1704)

“Te Deum”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #206

Vineyard Haven

“O Hear Our Cry, O Lord”

O hear our cry, O Lord; now hear us as we pray.

You guide us as a shepherd leads, so keep us in your way.

O come, Lord, come, restore and save us now.

Enthroned above all worlds, you shine with holy light.

Lord, pour your power upon us all and save us with your might.

O come, Lord, come, restore and save us now.

O Lord, the God of Hosts, turn not your face away.

Our tears have been both food and drink, foes mock us night and day.

O come, Lord, come, restore and save us now.

O Lord, our God, return; bring peace into each home.

So let your face shine on us all, restore us as your own.

O come, Lord, come, restore and save us now.

+Opening Sentences

**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**

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 1:1 and 10-20

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

**Enter with me the sacred space.
Bring with you what is yours—
a burdened heart, a joyous song,
a wearied spirit, a seeking mind.
Bring the gift of yourself to the altar.
It is an honorable gift.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Michele Magnani

“Theme for Clarinet”

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn

Kingsfold

“O God of Love, The Fast You Choose”

**O God of love, the fast you choose Is not some great display.
It's everything we gladly do To serve you day by day.
It's not a moment set apart When we will mourn our sin;
For you require a change of heart — A change from what has been.**

**Lord, we confess we often sing That you are our delight,
Then we go shouting words that sting; We bicker and we fight.
Oppressing others for our gain, We put our interests first.
We overlook our neighbors' pain While praying here in church.**

**You teach us what it means to be A church that worships you:
In setting captive people free, We praise you as you choose.
In sharing bread with hungry folk, Bringing the homeless in,
And breaking every bitter yoke We worship you again.**

**God, bless us as we journey on To live in loving ways.
Then darkness will turn into dawn And gloom will turn to praise.
When justice is our offering, We also will be blest,
And we will know the fast we bring Will be our very best.**

Prayer

Invitation

Offering
Offertory

John Stanley
(1713-1786)

“Processional in G Major”

+Prayer of Dedication

**Source of all being,
we turn to You as did our people in ancient days.
They beheld You in the stars,
they felt You in their hearts,
they sought You in their lives.**

**Now their quest is ours.
Help us, O God, to see the wonder of being.
Give us courage to search for truth.
Teach us the path to a better life.
So shall we, by our lives and labors,
bring nearer to realization the great hope inherited from ages past,
for a world transformed by liberty, justice, and peace.**

+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

**In a real sense this is a great time to be alive.
Therefore, I am not yet discouraged about the future.
Granted that the easygoing optimism of yesterday is impossible.
Granted that we face a world crisis
 which leaves us standing so often
 amid the surging murmur of life's restless sea.
But every crisis has both its dangers and its opportunities.
It can spell either salvation or doom.
In a dark, confused world
 the Kingdom of God may yet reign
 in the hearts of people.**

+Closing Hymn #450

Jerusalem

“O Day of Peace”

**O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth, and love,
Delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord;
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord.**

Benediction

Postlude

Christopher Teel
(b. 1971)

“Improvisation”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **David Lee**.

The guest proclaimer is **Kristy Kyle**.

The Call to Worship is from *Put Down Your Sword: Answering the Gospel Call to Creative Nonviolence* by John Dear.

The Opening Sentences are by Erich Fromm from *The Corrymeela Worship Book*.

The Unison Confession is by Amarette Callaway from the *1997 Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Worship Materials Collection*.

“Theme for Clarinet” is played by Clemente Mathis.

Deacon **Ann Stout** gives the prayer.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book, the 1975 Prayer Book of the Central Conference of [Reformed] Rabbis*.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from “Pilgrimage to Nonviolence” in *Strength to Love*, by Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Adult Education - One of the joys of Adult Education is connecting to knowledge and talents within our Covenant community. This week Bill Howze will introduce us to "The Myth of the East in John Ford's Western Movies."

- *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, Aug 7	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
Tue, Aug 9	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, Aug 11	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.