



*A Service of Worship for  
17 October 2021*

*Our Home, Our Journey  
Stewardship at Covenant*

Then blow on the coal of the heart, my darling.  
It's all the light now.

Blow on the coal of the heart.  
The candles in churches are out.  
The lights have gone out in the sky.  
Blow on the coal of the heart  
And we'll see by and by.

We'll see where we are.

The wit won't burn and the wet soul smolders.  
Blow on the coal of the heart and we'll know.

We'll know.

from "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ring in the hour  
Silence is kept

Prelude

François Couperin

“Meditation on the Chromhorne Stop”

Call to Worship

\*+Opening Hymn #261

O Quanta Qualia

“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

+Opening Prayer

**Living God, astound us one more with signs of your presence.  
In the withered corners of our love, amaze us with small, swelling buds.  
In the dead center of our despair, astonish us with tender shoots of hope.  
Across the barren fields of betrayal, let our bewildered eyes open  
to the greening of forgiveness.  
Into the frozen certainties of our endings, breathe warmth,  
that faith again may flower and exude the honey-damp fragrance of life.  
All praise and thanks to you, surprising God. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

Job 23:1-17

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

Time for Children

\*+Response:

New England

***Throughout the whole creation I see God's loving care  
For everyone in every land, God's children everywhere.  
Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I'm certain of my Maker's love; God's care is over me.***

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

\*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Unison Confession

**If I were to invent a sin  
to describe what that was  
—for how I lived—**

**I would not say it was simply  
that I didn't stop to smell the roses.  
It was the sin of arrogance,  
of becoming impervious to life itself.**

**I failed to love what was present  
and decided to love  
what was possible instead.**

Words of Assurance

Hymn #298

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

In Babilone

Proclamation

Music

“Even When God is Silent”

Michael Horvit

Silent Reflection

Prayer

Invitation

Stewardship Invitation

Offering

Offertory

“The Peace may be exchanged” from *Rubrics*

Dan Locklair

+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

**The quality of human life on our planet  
is nothing more than the sum total  
of our daily interactions with one another.**

**Each time we help, and each time we harm,  
we have a dramatic impact on our world.**

**Because we are human, some of  
our interactions will go wrong,  
and then we will hurt or be hurt, or both.**

**It is the nature of being human, and it is unavoidable.  
Forgiveness is the way we set those interactions right.  
It is the way we mend tears in the social fabric.  
It is the way we stop our human community from unraveling.**

+Closing Hymn #543

“Abide With Me (verses 1-4)”

Eventide

Benediction

Postlude

“Ponder This in Your Heart” No. 4 from *Versets for Small Organ*

Daniel Pinkham

## Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Nita Lindley**.

The Call to Worship is by Kathleen Cook.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from “Signs of Life” from *The Well is Deep: Prayers to Draw Up Living Water* by Virginia Rickeman.

The Unison Confession is from *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler.

The Stewardship Invitation given by **Beth Braun**.

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 Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

### Education 9:00 - 9:40 a.m.

Adult Education recorded education sessions will be made available on this page: [Adult Education Recordings](#).

### **HOLOCAUST VISIT POSTPONED**

The planned visit to the Holocaust Museum, announced in this week’s newsletter as scheduled for today has been postponed due to a special event at the museum that would limit the time for our visit. We expect to reschedule it for a Sunday in November. Since the class session was to feature excerpts from oral history video interviews with Holocaust survivors Edith and Josef Minberg, who provided funds for a major exhibition gallery that bears their name, it seems appropriate to change the date of that presentation as well. Instead, the class today will focus on the contemporary revival of antisemitism by considering a collection of short videos titled “Antisemitism Explained.”

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

#### Calendar

Sun. Oct 17	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 a.m.	Worship live-stream
Thur. Oct 21	10:00 a.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Oct 21	7:15 p.m.	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Thur. Oct 21	8:00 p.m.	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Fri. Oct 22	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 Communication

Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth

Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita

David Lee, Director of Music

Christopher Teel, Organist

Monique Cruz, Office and Financial Administrator

*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.*