



*A Service of Worship for
14 November 2021*

I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness;
I hear the approaching thunder that,
one day, will destroy us too.
I feel the suffering of millions.
And yet, when I look up at the sky,
I somehow feel that everything will change for the better,
that this cruelty too shall end,
that peace and tranquility will return once more.

Anne Frank

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Carlos Seixas
(1704-1742)

“Toccata”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #452

St. Michael

“O Day of God, Draw Nigh” (vs. 1-4)

+Opening Sentences

“You see this goblet?” asks Achaan Chaa, the Thai meditation master.

“For me this glass is already broken.

I enjoy it; I drink out of it.

It holds my water admirably,

sometimes even reflecting the sun in beautiful patterns.

If I should tap it, it has a lovely ring to it.

But when I put this glass on the shelf

and the wind knocks it over

or my elbow brushes it off the table

and it falls to the ground and shatters,

I say, ‘Of course.’

When I understand that the glass is already broken,

every moment with it is precious.”

Scripture Lesson

Mark 13:1-8

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.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Behind resistance,
behind aggression and jealousy,
behind any kind of tension,
there is a soft spot
we are trying to protect.
Someone's actions hurt our feelings
and before we notice what we're doing,
we armor ourselves
in a very old and familiar way.
We can either let go
and connect with that soft spot
or we can continue
to stubbornly hold on.**

**The real work of the peacemaker
is to find the soft spot
and the tenderness in that very uneasy place
and stay with it.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 - 1847)

“Grant Us Thy Peace”

Grant us Thy peace, Almighty Lord,
Thou source of every blessing!
Feeble and frail, trust we Thy word,
All things in Thee possessing.
In Thee is our hope and safety.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn #401

Rustington

“When Will People Cease Their Fighting”
(The choir will sing verse 1 and we ask the congregation to join in the singing of verses 2 and 3.)

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844-1937)

“Méditation” from *Symphonie No. 1, Op. 13, No. 1*

+Prayer of Dedication

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.**

+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

**Peace always seems
a weary way off.**

**As Jeremiah lamented,
“We looked for peace,
but no peace came.”**

**But to give up on peace
is to give up on God.**

†Closing Hymn #332

“Live Into Hope”

Truro

Benediction

Postlude

Kenneth Leighton
(1929-1988)

“St. Columba" from *Six Fantasies on Hymn Tunes for Organ*”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Joyce Courtois**.

The Call to Worship is by Brene Brown.

The Opening Sentences are from *Thoughts Without a Thinker: Psychotherapy from a Buddhist Perspective* by Mark Epstein.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *Practicing Peace in Times of War* by Pema Chödrön.

The Pastoral Prayer is given by Deacon **Jay Hooker**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Saint Francis.

The Affirmation of Faith is from Credo by William Sloane Coffin.

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

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

In keeping with Covenant's commitment to devote regular attention to two enormous issues, racial inequality and climate change, the Adult Education class for Sunday, November 14, will feature a video interview by Democracy Now's Amy Goodman with Dr. Robert D. Bullard, often described as the father of environmental justice. He is the former Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University (2011-2016) and currently the Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and Director of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice. Prior to coming to TSU he was founding Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He received his Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University. He is an award-winning author of eighteen books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, disasters, emergency response, and community resilience, smart growth, and regional equity. He is co-founder of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium. Dr. Bullard is also a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

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. Nov 14	9:00 am	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	10:30 am	C&Y Sweet Potato Harvest, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship live-stream
Tue, Nov 16	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov 18	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Nov 18	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Fri. Nov 19	1:00 pm	Book Club, 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.

*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

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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.