



*A Service of Worship for the  
Second Sunday of Advent  
5 December 2021*

It is in deeds that we become aware of what our lives really are,  
of our power to harm and to hurt,  
to wreck and to ruin;  
of our ability to derive joy and to bestow it upon others;  
to relieve and to increase our own and other people's tensions.  
It is in the employment of our will,  
not in reflection,  
that we meet our own selves as they are;  
not as we should like them to be.  
In our deeds we expose our immanent as well as our suppressed desires,  
spelling out that which we cannot apprehend.  
What we may not dare to think,  
we often utter in deeds.  
The heart is revealed in the deeds.

Abraham Joshua Heschel



Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

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

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

“Chorale prelude on 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland’”

Call to Worship

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

Response: (please remain seated)

Cradle Song

**Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare  
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.**

\*+Opening Hymn #11

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Walet will Ich dir geben

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:46-56

These are our sacred stories.

**Thanks be to God.**

Time for Children

\*+Response:

Moon Beams

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

*\*Ushers will seat latecomers*

*+Please stand in body or spirit*

Unison Confession

**We are all meant to be mothers of God.  
What good is it to me if this eternal birth  
of the divine Son takes place unceasingly  
but does not take place within myself?  
And, what good is it to me  
if Mary is full of grace  
if I am not also full of grace?**

**What good is it to me  
for the Creator to give birth to the Son  
if I do not also give birth to him  
in my time and my culture?**

**Then, then, is the fullness of time:  
When the Son of God is begotten in us.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Paul Manz

“E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Peace be to you and grace from him  
Who freed us from our fears  
Who loved us all and showed us how  
We might live our lives.  
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord  
The Lord, Almighty God  
Who was, and is, and is to come  
Sing Holy, Holy Lord

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon  
For Christ is coming soon  
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come  
And night shall be no more  
We need no light nor lamp nor sun  
For Christ will be our All!

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

Hymn #600

“Song of Mary”

Morning Song

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Jeanne Demessieux  
(1921-1968)

“Rorate Caeli”

+Prayer of Dedication

**O Root of Jesse, come and save us.**

**O Wolf-tamer and Leopard-gentler,  
come and join us tenderly.**

**O Sower of the field where cow and bear graze,  
where calf and cub play together,  
come and teach us love across diversity.**

**O Lover of serpents and children,  
come and draw the poison out of our family relationships.**

**O One of many antiphons, who names us naming you,  
come and in-spirit us  
against hurt and destroying,  
in counsel and might,  
for wisdom and understanding,  
through fear and delight.**

+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 is the heart of God  
but how shall we find peace between people?  
There can be no flower of peace  
from the seeds of discord;  
there can be no fruit of peace  
from the root of injustice;  
there can be no reaping of peace  
from the sowing of oppression.  
But when in our thoughts  
we honour God and our neighbours,  
when in our words  
we encourage those who are lonely or depressed,  
when in our actions  
we seek justice and freedom for all,**

**then peace breaks out with happiness  
in all the places where people meet  
and women and men, young and old,  
join in the tongues of all the nations  
to praise the Prince of Peace,  
Jesus, Emmanuel, God alongside us.**

<sup>†</sup>Closing Hymn

“My Soul Rejoices in the Lord”

Ellacombe

**My soul rejoices in the Lord; my God gives strength to me.  
I feel my heart within me soar at God's great victory.  
O God, you are the Holy One! You are the Rock I trust.  
I sing with joy what you have done—for you've delivered us.**

**O God, you turn the world around and make things fresh and new.  
The proud and mighty are cast down; the poor find life in you.  
See! Those who ate till they were stuffed are searching now for bread,  
while those who never had enough feast at your table spread.**

**The burdens that we long have known by grace are cast away.  
You lift the poor to sit on thrones and bring a just, new day.  
The ones who grieve what might have been are finding ways to be  
the blessing-bearers, loving kin, in your community.**

**This song was Hannah's joyful shout of wonder and surprise.  
Young Mary, too, would sing it out, that you change people's lives.  
May we remember all you do — and your surprising ways.  
May acts of love and justice, too, grow from our songs of praise.**

Benediction

Postlude

Ned Rorem  
(b. 1923)

“Magnificat”

## Worship Notes

The worship leader is **David Ramsey**.

Our Advent banner was created by **Nancy Henry**.

**Nita Lindley** and **Linda Phenix** are creating and coordinating our Advent scene.

The second Advent candle is lit by **Jeannie & Clinton Gambill**.

The Time for Children is given by **Ann Christensen**.

The Call to Worship is “Suffering” from *Sing to the Lord a New Song* by William James Holderith.

The Unison Confession is Meister Eckhart, 14th century.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *An Improbable Gift of Blessing: Prayers and Affirmations to Nurture the Spirit* by Maren C. Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant.

The Affirmation of Faith is “Meditation” by John Johansen-Berg.

“My Soul Rejoices in the Lord” text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

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

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

Our Advent series will continue with the theme of *Peace*. Please bring your thoughts and examples as we reflect on God's kingdom through the lens of Advent anticipation.

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website: [Covenant Gatherings](#)

### Announcements

#### Calendar

Sun. Dec 5	9:00 am	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	11:00 am	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship live-stream
	12:00 pm	Tree Trimming Children & Youth, Covenant
Tue. Dec 7	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Dec 9	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Dec 9	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant
Fri. Dec 10	1:00 pm	Book Club, Zoom Meeting
Sun. Dec 12	12:00 pm	Quarterly Business Meeting, Covenant

## **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.*