



*A Service of Worship for
Second Sunday of Lent
13 March 2022*

Courage is a heart word.

The root of the word courage is cor - the Latin word for heart.

In one of its earliest forms, the word courage meant

“To speak one's mind by telling all one's heart.”

Over time, this definition has changed,
and today, we typically associate courage with heroic and brave deeds.

But in my opinion, this definition fails to recognize
the inner strength and level of commitment
required for us to actually speak honestly and openly
about who we are and about our experiences -- good and bad.
Speaking from our hearts is what I think of as "ordinary courage."

Brene Brown

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringing in the hour
Silence is kept

Prelude

Hermann Schroeder
(1904-1984)

“Prelude IV”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #303

Aberystwyth

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

+Opening Prayer

**Eternal God of all peoples and races,
may all your children learn to live
together in peace and friendship.
Let the day come when oppression,
terrorism, discrimination and prejudice
will be forgotten, and all the world filled with your spirit.

May that day come soon, O God;
the day foretold by the prophets and sages,
the day for which we long,
when all humanity will recognize that it is one family.**

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 27
Luke 13:31-35

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

[†]Response:

Au Clair de la Lune

**Jesus hands were kind hands, doing good to all;
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small.
Let me watch you Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.
Whenever we are paralyzed by fear
or limited in vision, increase our trust in you.
Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,
show us the more excellent way that your love requires.
Whenever we tire of the struggle
and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope.
Whenever we forget those who have gone before us
or act as if we were the first to follow in the way of peace,
allow us to recognize our arrogance.
May the resources of our faith encourage us to dream again.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Ron Nelson
(b. 1929)

“Cause Us, O Lord”

Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace,
and to awaken to renewed life and strength.
Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Lord, help us to order our lives by Thy council,
lead us in the paths of righteousness.
Lord, be Thou a shield about us, protect us.
Save our world from sorrow, from hate, and from war.
Curb Thou within us the will to do evil.
Shelter us beneath the shadow of Thy wings. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn

Tallis' Canon

“Lord, We Confess We Turn Away”

**Lord, we confess we turn away
The very ones we need today.
God’s prophets speak out loud and clear,
Yet prophets still aren’t welcomed here.**

**You grieved for old Jerusalem
For you were like a mother hen
Who brought her brood beneath her wings —
While they were drawn to other things.**

**Lord, call us out and draw us in
when we would rather side with sin —
Let the prophetic things you say
still challenge how we live this day.**

**May we who listen to your voice,
Be still, be wise, then make a choice.
You call us to a life that’s new;
Lord, may we now return to you.**

Prayer

Invitations

Offering

Offertory

Christopher Teel
(b. 1971)

“Improvisation”

+Prayer of Dedication

**For the labor that is never over,
give us strength.
For the healing that is ever before us,
give us courage.**

*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

Leader: You're thinking of revolution as a great all-or-nothing.

I think of it as one more morning in a muggy cotton field, checking the undersides of leaves to see what's been there, figuring out what to do that won't clear a path for worse problems next week. Right now that's what I do.

You ask why I'm not afraid of loving and losing, and that's my answer.

All: The daily work--that goes on, it adds up.

It goes into the ground, into crops, into children's bellies and their bright eyes.

Good things don't get lost.

Leader: Here's what I've decided: the very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.

All: What I want is so simple I almost can't say it: elementary kindness.

Enough to eat, enough to go around. The possibility that kids might one day grow up to be neither the destroyer nor the destroyed.

+Closing Hymn #543

Eventide

“Abide With Me”

Benediction

Postlude

Percy Whitlock
(1903-1946)

“Pastorale: Psalm 23:1”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Beverly Rodgers**.

The Call to Worship is “Kindness” by Naomi Shihab Nye.

The Opening Sentences are adapted from *Gates of Prayer; The New Union Prayer Book*, Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The Unison Confession is adapted from a prayer by J. Bennett Guess.

The text of “Lord, We Confess We Turn Away” is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

The prayer is given by Deacon **Ann Stout**.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Night Visions* by Jan L. Richardson.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Education 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Adult Education - Spiritual Journaling Workshop with Kathryn Haueisen

Kathy is an author, workshop leader, speaker, and retired Evangelical Lutheran Church of America pastor living in Houston.

She has published six books and numerous articles for print and on-line publications. She writes about family, travel, faith and inspiration, and good people doing great things. Her latest book, *Mayflower Chronicles: the Tale of Two Cultures* explores the interaction of the English colonizers and the native Pokanoket people. During adult education she will lead an online workshop in spiritual journaling. Please bring some paper and a pen as she will lead us in a small practice.

- Ann Stout

Children & Youth Sunday School

We will have two options for Sunday School: virtual from 10-10:30, and in-person in the Huff Fellowship Hall from 10:30-11 (masks required). This way, everyone can take part in the fun.

- Trena' Jamison

Zoom links and materials are available on the Online Gatherings page on our website:

<https://www.covenanthouston.org/covenant-gatherings.html>

Announcements

Calendar

Sun, Mar 13	9:00 am	Adult Education, Zoom Meeting
	10:00 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Zoom
	10:30 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship in-person, Covenant
	11:00 am	Worship live-stream
Tue. Mar 15	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Mar 17	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Mar 17	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Covenant

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 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
Fran Avera, Minister of Music, Emerita
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

*4949 Caroline Street
Houston, Texas 77004
713-668-8830
office@covenanthouston.org
www.covenanthouston.org*

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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.