



*A Service of Worship for
First Sunday of Lent
6 March 2022*

God's presence with us means
that we are always at home
and not at home, rooted and uprooted,
resting and wandering,
being placed and displaced,
known by one place and
not known by any place.

Paul Tillich

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Hermann Schroeder
(1904-1984)

“Prelude II”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #452

St. Michael

“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

+Opening Prayer

**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.**

Scripture Lesson

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Luke 4:1-13

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

†Response:

**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**

Au Clair de la Lune

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**We realize that the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness
was a time of reflection as well as a time of temptation.
We hesitate to go into such a wilderness ourselves.
We spend our days in familiar surroundings,
with familiar thoughts, and familiar trials.
We rarely let ourselves be tempted by kingdoms, or great heights.
We rarely attempt to perform metamorphosis.
We confess that we attribute a remoteness and austerity
to the wilderness that makes it seem strangely appealing,
and that likewise, the temptations of Satan seem easy to reject.
We confess that it is difficult for us to perceive the relationship
of our daily lives to the trials Jesus faced in the wilderness.
Open our eyes to your truths.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

“O For a Closer Walk with God”

Oh! for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy Dove, return!
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made me mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.
So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame:
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #77

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Aus der Tiefe rufe Ich

Prayer

Invitations

Offering

Offertory

Lennox Berkeley
(1903-1989)

“Andantino”

+Prayer of Dedication

**We have to choose
what kind of peace
we will seek
and work for.**

*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

**May I, may you, may we
not die unlived lives.
May none of us live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
May we choose to inhabit our days,
to allow our living to open us,
to make us less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen our hearts
until they become wings,
torches, promises.
May each of us choose to risk our significance;
to live so that what comes to us as seed
goes to the next as blossom
and that which comes to us as blossom,
goes on as fruit.**

+Closing Hymn

St. Denio

“O Lord, You Were Sent”

**O Lord, you were sent to a place wild and vast
To ponder your mission, to pray and to fast;
Then hungry and weary, you faced night and day
The subtle temptations to turn from God’s way.**

**How could it be wrong to want bread on the shelf?
To seek, in one’s serving, to first serve one’s self?
But by God’s own word you remained ever sure:
It’s only in God that our lives are secure.**

**How could it be wrong to step out and to dare,
To prove with great drama the depths of God’s care?
But you knew God’s word, true since all time began:
It’s wrong to expect God to work by our plan.**

Benediction

Postlude

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921-1968)

“Attende Domine”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Beverly Rodgers**.

The Call to Worship is from “The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman.

The Opening Sentences are from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book*, the 1975 Prayer Book of the Central Conference of Reformed Rabbis.

The Unison Confession is by **Bill Howze**.

The text of "O Lord, You Were Sent" is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Dorothee Sölle.

The Affirmation of Faith is a prayer by Dawna Markova from *Prayers for a Thousand Years* edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

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

Adult Education

This Sunday we will begin a Lent series on spiritual practices. Our video presenter will be author Diana Butler Bass, speaking on the spiritual practice of gratitude.

- *Bill Kline*

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 6	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 8	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Mar 10	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom Meeting
Thur. Mar 10	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, 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.

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

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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.*