



*A Service of Worship for
Palm/Passion Sunday
10 April 2022*

Jesus was killed.

This is one of those facts that everybody knows,
but whose significance is often overlooked.

He didn't simply die; he was executed.

We as Christians participate in the only major religious tradition
whose founder was executed by established authority.

And if we ask the historical question,

“Why was he killed?” the historical answer is because

he was a social prophet and movement initiator,

a passionate advocate of God's justice,

and a radical critic of the domination system who had attracted a following.

If Jesus had been only a mystic, healer, and wisdom teacher,

he almost certainly would not have been executed.

He was killed because of his politics - because of his passion for God's justice.

Marcus J. Borg

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921-1968)

“Hosanna Filio David”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #89

Ellacombe

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

+Responsive Opening Sentences

Today we enter Holy Week with its cycle of life, death, and new life.

Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name.

Jesus, the holy one, the whole one, enters Jerusalem
as he rides on the back of a donkey colt.
Crowds wave palm branches and cry out,

Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name.

Jesus, holy one, enter the gates of our hearts today
as we join you in this time of Passion.
With you, let us remember and celebrate your birth, your calling, your ministry.

Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name.

Jesus, our mentor of wholeness, guide us through the streets of our journey.
Open our eyes and our ears to the guiding of God’s spirit
who calls us to costly faithfulness and joyous wholeness.

Let us sing with all our selves.

Hosannah! Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name.

Hosannah in the highest heaven. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 19:28-40

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers.
+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

†Response:

Valet will Ich dir geben

**All glory, laud, and honor, to Thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems before Thee we present.**

Music

Edward W. Leinbeck
(1823-1901)

“Hosanna”

Scripture Lesson

Luke 22:7-23

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

If you would like to take communion, please move outside. Deacons will be serving communion on the garden side and labyrinth side of the church. Our communion elements include both wine and water and gluten free and vegan crackers. All are always welcome to communion at Covenant.

Hymn #508

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

Kingdom

Scripture Lesson

Luke 22:47-54

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

O God,

**Make us brave and bold and scrupled enough
to know that to love our enemies
does not mean to be afraid to meet them
in a daily thrust toward justice;
and in the bold venture of saying what we mean,
and meaning what we say,
to be trustworthy in striving toward intimacy.**

**Arouse us to pay the price of being merciful
that our lives may reflect your mercy to us.**

**Empower us to dare to be compassionate
that your dreams for our humanity may come true,
to be disciplined yet flexible
that we may prepare the way for your kingdom
in our hearts and in your world;
through Jesus. Amen**

Words of Assurance

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

“O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded”

[†]Prayer of Dedication

**To be a Christian –
a follower of Jesus Christ –
is to love wisdom,
love justice,
and love freedom.**

**This is the radical love
that embraces questioning,
prophetic witness, and hope.**

To be a Christian

**is to live dangerously, honestly, freely –
to step in the name of love as if you may land on nothing,
yet to keep stepping because the something that sustains you
no empire can give you and no empire can take away.**

*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

**We must be careful not to narrow the meaning of passion
to mean the suffering of Jesus rather than
broadening the meaning to raise the question:
“What was Jesus passionate about?”**

**It was what Jesus was passionate about
that led to his arrest and execution.**

**What he was passionate about,
of course, was the kingdom of God.**

+Closing Hymn

Were You There

“Was I There”

**Was I there when the hungry needed food?
Was I there when the hungry needed food?
Oh--Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder:
Do I see Christ in my own neighborhood?**

**Was I there when the stranger came along?
Was I there when the stranger came along?
Oh--Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder:
Do I see Christ among the homeless throng?**

**Was I there when the suffering needed love?
Was I there when the suffering needed love?
Oh--Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder:
Do I see Christ in those too sick to move?**

**Was I there when the lonely felt bereft?
Was I there when the lonely felt bereft?
Oh--Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder:
Do I see Christ imprisoned, no hope left?**

**Will you teach me to be compassionate?
Will you teach me to be compassionate?
Oh--Sometimes I need to stop and ponder, ponder, ponder:
How to live, being more compassionate.**

Benediction

Postlude

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

“My soul longeth to depart in peace”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Amy Cuellar**.

The Call to Worship is adapted from *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* by Obery Hendricks, Jr.

The Opening Sentences are from “Passion Sunday” by Beth Richardson, reprinted in *Imaging the Word, Volume I*, edited by Kenneth T. Lawrence.

The Unison Confession is adapted from *My Heart in My Mouth* by Ted Loder.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from “The Crisis of Christian Identity in America: in Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism” by Cornel West.

The Affirmation of Faith is from “Homiletics Interview: Marcus Bog – Begin Christian in the 21st Century.” Printed online at www.homileticsonline.com.

The text of “Was I There” was written by **Eric Avera**.

Holy Week

Friday, April 15 at 7:30 pm - Tenebrae Service at Covenant Church

Saturday, April 16 at 9:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt at Covenant Church

Sunday, April 17 at 11:00 am - Easter Sunday worship at Covenant Church and via livestream

Education 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Adult Education

Will Scheel, the Houston Representative for Plant With Purpose, will be our LIVE speaker at our in-person adult education this Sunday. Plant With Purpose, a Christian nonprofit organization, reverses deforestation and poverty around the world by transforming the lives of the rural poor. They partner with farmers, their families, and their local churches to strengthen relationships with God, promote economic and social development, and restore the land these farmers depend on. Their holistic model promotes sustainable development through local empowerment, economic resilience, regenerative agriculture, and restoring relationships through all of creation. As we approach Earth Day on April 22nd, we will learn about how this organization has helped farming families around the world be better stewards of God's creation. The link to their website is here: <https://plantwithpurpose.org/>.

- Ann Stout

Children & Youth Education

Huff Fellowship Hall

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

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

Children and Youth Announcements

- Youth Egg Stuffing April 10 at 1:00pm
- Children and Youth Easter Egg Hunt April 16 at 9:00am
- Mentor/Youth Moving Forward Planning Meeting May 8 at 12:30pm
- Children and Youth Auction May 15 at 12:30pm

We are approaching the annual Children and Youth auction. If you have any handmade items or any experiences you would like to donate, please feel free to reach out to me or anyone on the Children and Youth committee.

- Trena' Jamison

Calendar

Sun, Mar 10	9:30 am	Adult Education, Huff Fellowship Hall & Zoom
	9:30 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Huff Fellowship Hall
	10:20 am	Virtual Communion, Zoom
	10:20 am	Hospitality, Huff Fellowship Hall
	10:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:00 am	Worship in-person, Sanctuary
	11:00 am	Worship live-stream
	12:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	1:00 pm	Youth Egg Stuffing, Huff Fellowship Hall
Tue. Mar 12	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur. Mar 14	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom
Thur. Mar 14	7:15 pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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 open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm.

*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.