



***A Service of Worship for
Arbor Day and the Second
Sunday of Eastertide
1 May 2022***

Love the quick profit, the annual raise, vacation with pay.
Want more of everything ready-made. Be afraid to know your
neighbors and to die.

And you will have a window in your head.

Not even your future will be a mystery any more.

Your mind will be punched in a card and shut away in a little
drawer.

When they want you to buy something they will call you.

When they want you to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something that won't compute.

Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing.

Take all that you have and be poor.

Love someone who does not deserve it.

Denounce the government and embrace the flag.

Hope to live in that free republic for which it stands.

Give your approval to all you cannot understand.

Praise ignorance, for what man has not encountered
he has not destroyed.

Ask the questions that have no answers.

Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.

Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.

Say that the leaves are harvested when they have rotted into the
mold.

Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees every thousand years.

Listen to carrion — put your ear close, and hear
the faint chattering of the songs that are to come.

Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable.

Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.

So long as women do not go cheap for power,
please women more than men.

Ask yourself: Will this satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child?

Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth?

Go with your love to the fields. Lie easy in the shade.

Rest your head in her lap. Swear allegiance to
what is nighest your thoughts.

As soon as the generals and the politicians can predict
the motions of your mind, lose it.

Leave it as a sign to mark the false trail, the way you didn't go.

Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.

Practice resurrection.

“Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front” by Wendell Berry

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour
Silence is kept

Prelude

Charles V. Stanford
(1852-1924)

“At Easter-tide”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #418

Ich Halte Treulich Still

“God, Bless Your Church with Strength”

+Opening Sentences

**God, you have entrusted us with the care of great beauty and enormous wealth.
We feel in turns honored, careless, possessive, and helpless
in the face of such providence.
Do you mean we have to figure out together how to live with this abundance?
We are so much better at dividing, hoarding, spending, and claiming
little pieces.
God, open our hearts and minds and hands
that we may grow into the fruitful generous images of yourself
that you made us to be. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

John 21:1-19

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

+Response:

Lasst uns erfreuen

In every land begin the song, To every land the strains belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sound all voices raise, And fill the world with joyful praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**We give away our thanks to the earth
which gives us our home.**

**We give away our thanks to the rivers and lakes
which give away their water.**

**We give away our thanks to the trees
which give away fruit and nuts.**

**We give away our thanks to the wind
which brings rain to water the plants.**

**We give away our thanks to the sun.
who gives away warmth and light.**

**All beings on earth: the trees, the animals, the wind
and the rivers give away to one another
so all is in balance.**

**We give away our promise to begin to learn
how to stay in balance with all the earth.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Thomas Tallis
(c. 1505 – 1585)

“If Ye Love Me”

If ye love me
Keep my commandments
And I will pray to God,
And God shall give you another comforter;
That God may abide with you forever;
E'en the spirit of truth.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #407

El Camino

“When a Poor One”

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Dietrich Buxtehude

(1637-1707)

“Komm, heliger Geist, Herre Gott (Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God)”

We will be tithing the cash offerings each first Sunday of the month. This means that we will give 10% of the cash offerings to one of the mission's organizations that Covenant partners with on the first Sunday of each month. These funds will be above and beyond what Covenant has budgeted to give to Missions. Sunday, May 1, the offering tithe will go to Christian Community Service Center (ccshouston.org). Covenant has a long history with CCSC. CCSC is a community-based nonprofit organization serving central Houston.

+Prayer of Dedication

**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.

*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.*

+Responsive Affirmation of Faith

**All: May all I say and all I think
be in harmony with thee,
God within me, God beyond me,
maker of the trees.**

Leader: In me be the windswept truth of shorepine,
fragrance of balsam and spruce,
the grace of hemlock.

In me the truth of douglas fir, straight, tall
strong-trunked land hero of fireproof bark.

Sheltering tree of life, cedar's truth be mine,
cypress truth, juniper aroma, strength of yew.

**All: May all I say and all I think
be in harmony with thee,
God within me, God beyond me,
maker of trees.**

Leader: In me be the truth of stream-lover willow
soil-giving alder
hazel of sweet nuts, wisdom-branching oak.

In me the joy of crab-apple, great-maple, vine-maple,
cleansing cascara and lovely dogwood.

And the gracious truth of the copper branched arbutus,
bright with color and fragrance,
be with me on the Earth.

**All: May all I say and all I think
be in harmony with thee,
God within me, God beyond me,
maker of the trees.**

“Thank you, God for Water, Soil, and Air

Unison Benediction

Earth teach me quiet ~ as the grasses are still with new light.
Earth teach me suffering ~ as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach me humility ~ as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach me caring ~ as mothers nurture their young.
Earth teach me courage ~ as the tree that stands alone.
Earth teach me limitation ~ as the ant that crawls on the ground.
Earth teach me freedom ~ as the eagle that soars in the sky.
Earth teach me acceptance ~ as the leaves that die each fall.
Earth teach me renewal ~ as the seed that rises in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself ~ as melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness ~ as dry fields weep with rain.

Postlude

David N. Johnson
(1922-1987)

“Trumpet Tune in D Major”

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Richard Johnson**.

The Call to Worship is by Maren C. Tirabassi.

The Opening Sentences are by Virginia Rickeman from *The Well Is Deep: Prayers to Draw Up Living Water*.

The Unison Confession is from *Earth Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from a prayer by J. Bennett Guess.

The Affirmation of Faith is a Chinook song from *Earth Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

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

Adult Education - Adult Education Classroom, Huff Fellowship Hall

This Sunday we will resume the popular tradition of personal reflections from our own members. Sybil Estess will share thoughts from her book "Mississippi Milkwater." Please join us in person in the Adult Education room or via Zoom.

- *Bill Kline*

Children & Youth Education - Huff Fellowship Hall

Children and Youth Announcements

- Children and Youth Auction May 15 at 12:30pm
- Youth Moving Forward Planning Meeting June 5 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*

Announcements

Facilitated Mission/Vision Conversation: Holy Excavation

Mark your calendars for May 22, 2022 after church in the Huff Fellowship Hall for an all church facilitated conversation. We will be participating in Holy Excavation. Facilitator Leah Taylor will join us in this work of mission/vision.

Calendar

Sun, May 1	9:30 am	Adult Education, Adult Education classroom on the 2nd floor of the Fellowship Hall Building
	9:30 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Huff Fellowship Hall
	9:30 am	Inquirer's Class, Sanctuary
	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
Tue, May 3	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, May 4	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom
Thur, May 4	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

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.