



*A Service of Worship for
Pentecost Sunday
5 June 2022*

Language is the foundation of civilization.
It is the glue that holds a people together.
It is the first weapon drawn in a conflict.

Arrival. Directed by Denis Villeneuve, 2016

I had an experience. I can't prove it, I can't even explain it,
but everything that I know as a human being,
everything that I am tells me that it was real!
I was given something wonderful, something that changed me forever:
a vision of the universe that tells us, undeniably, how tiny,
and insignificant and how rare, and precious we all are;
a vision that tells us that we belong to something that is greater than ourselves,
that we are not, that none of us, are alone!
I wish I could share that I wish that everyone,
if only for one moment, could feel that awe, and humility, and hope.

Contact. Directed by Robert Zemeckis, 1997

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringling in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Samuel Scheidt
(1587-1654)

“Veni Creator Spiritus” (III)

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #131

Aberystwyth

“Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”

+Opening Sentences

**You speak in silence
and all languages interpret you.
You are the truth of all words,
their permanence and their comfort
and every person who listens with an open mind
can hear you in his language
and in her own life.
Put words into our mouths, then,
that comfort and shed light,
make us alive to justice and to right,
groan in us for a new creation,
guide our hearts and our faith,
let our thoughts and our labors be fruitful
and give us the bread of peace.**

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:1-21

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

*Ushers will seat latecomers

+Please stand in body or spirit

Graduate Recognition

Leader: We have a tradition of celebrating our graduates. I invite any of the following graduates who are present this day to join me: Graduates from high school: Soren Laureles, Sigourney Lee, Camryn Corron, Anne Greene; Graduates from college: Alexa Daggett, Blakeley Kress, Byron Kress, Wilson Miller, Parker Ward; Graduates from graduate school: Miller Kress, Moses Mason, Shannon Wright.

People: We celebrate all of you this day. We congratulate you on your academic accomplishments.

Sunday School Teachers and Mentors: We celebrate who you have been, who you are now, and who you will continue to become.

Leader: Frederick Buechner wrote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

People: As you continue to find this place, we pray for your courage to create peace; we pray that you remember that we are each called to love ourselves and our neighbors; we pray that you know you are celebrated by this church family for being exactly who you are even as you continue to become.

All: Together we affirm: The loving presence of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the revealed Spirit throughout the ages; the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe; truth as an ongoing process, and the necessity to be explorers in the continuing discovery of faith and understanding.

Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

*Response:

Don Schlosser

"One Spirit Sends Us Onward"

MERLE'S TUNE

One Spir - it sends us on - ward in wit-ness to the earth,
as min - is - ters of jus - tice and mid-wives for re - birth:
to lead the church with cour - age on ven-tures new - be - gun,
re - formed yet still re - form - ing, 'til God's whole will is done.

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**We are creatures of habit.
We are reluctant to tread a new path
because we don't know where it leads.
Then we are forced down a new path by detours of circumstances,
and the new becomes the familiar,
and again we fear finding a fork in the new road.
Sometimes the new road leads us to an open space,
lit by the sun, cooled by breaths of breeze,
but if we fear the path we haven't worn smooth by our repeated travel,
protected, but breathless, shaded but covered from the sun,
we risk missing what the light reveals,
and the invigorating spirit found in new meadows.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Stephen Sturk

“Veni Creator Spiritus”

Veni Creator Spiritus, mentes tuorum visita:
Come Creator Spirit, visit the souls of thy people
Imple superna gratia quae tu creasti pectora
Fill with grace from on high the hearts which you have created.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
and your justice is like the great deep.
How priceless is your love, O God!
Your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
They feast upon the abundance of your house;
You give them drink from the river of your delights.

Qui diceris Paraclitus, altissimi donum Dei,
You who are called comforter, gift of God on high,
Fons vivus, ignis, caritas, et Spiritualis unctio.
Living fount, fire, love, and anointing of souls.

For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

Amen.

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn #128

Munich

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

Prayer

Invitation

Offering

Offertory

Johann Gottfried Walther
(1684-1748)

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

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, June 5, the offering tithe will go to Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IM). IM brings people of diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration, and service. Their four areas of service include Meals on Wheels, Refugee Services, Interfaith Relations and Community Partnerships, and Volunteer Houston.

+Prayer of Dedication

**Exuberant Spirit of God,
bursting with the brightness of flame
into the coldness of our lives
to warm us with a passion for justice and beauty,
we praise you.**

**Exuberant Spirit of God,
sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy
to breathe vitality into our struggles for change,
we praise you.**

**Exuberant Spirit of God,
speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust
to convey messages of truth and new understanding,
we praise you.**

**Exuberant Spirit of God,
flame
wind
speech,
burn, breath, speak in us;
fill your world with justice and with joy.**

+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

**The reality to which the word *God* points
is beyond all words,
beyond all language,
beyond all concepts...
Once we name it, we are no longer talking about it
for this reality cannot be expressed in words.**

+Closing Hymn

Aurelia

“O Christ, We Trust Your Promise”

**O Christ, we trust your promise that we are not alone,
for God still dwells among us to make in us a home.
God gives the Holy Spirit to teach us how to be
a loving, faithful people, a new community.**

**We find a real assurance within the peace you give;
the Advocate God sends us now shows us how to live.
When we're afraid or anxious, when sin is all we see,
the Spirit builds among us a new community.**

**So when we seek direction, remind us what is true:
the Advocate is with us to help us follow you.
Christ, guided by the Spirit, may we your people be
A loving, faithful witness in this community.**

Benediction

Postlude

Christopher Teel
(b. 1971)

“Improvisation on Veni Creator Spiritus”

The worship leader is **Sally Ridgway**.

The guest proclaimer is **Eric Avera**.

The Call to Worship is "Psalmsong" from *Morning Watch: Meditations* by Barbara Pescan.

The Opening Sentences are from *Your Word is Near* by Huub Oosterhuis.

The Unison Confession is by **David Lee**.

The Covenant Singers are joined by members of the Covenant Handbell Ensemble.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Bread for Tomorrow: Prayers of the Church Year* by Jan Berry.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can Be Restored* by Marcus Borg.

The text of "O Christ, We Trust Your Promise" is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

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

Adult Education - On June 5, Jim Avera will make a presentation in the Adult Education time, "Organizing Covenant". He chose this title to deliberately mislead and hopefully entice you to come hear or listen via livestream to a presentation about Covenant's organ! He will present the history along with several anecdotal stories and describe "interesting" answers to questions like:

- What is a tracker organ and what were the alternatives?
 - How much did it cost? Was it over budget?
 - When was it originally built? Where did it come from?
 - How did it get here? When did it get installed?
 - Did it "fit" in the facility?
 - Who from Covenant helped? What did they do?
- ... and much more!

You are invited to join us in this exploration, see the numerous photos as he tours the organ inside and out and actually experience the rare occasion of Jim when he tells a story in a compressed format!

- *Jim Avera*

Children & Youth Education - Room B, 2nd floor of the Fellowship Hall Building

Children and Youth Announcements

As we are getting ready to close out the school year, we would like to take the time to celebrate the graduates of our church. We will acknowledge our graduates and offer them a gift of celebration on June 5 during worship. If you or someone you know from Covenant is graduating, please reach out and let me know. My email is trena@covenanthouston.org and my number is 832-273-3895.

- June 5: Graduates of Covenant Celebration
- June 5: Youth Moving Forward Planning Meeting at 12:30pm in the Huff Fellowship Hall. If you are available, please join us. It will be a great conversation.

- June 11: Since we will not be attending Youth camp this year, we have planned a youth lock-in at the church.
 - We are planning a pool party for the Youth this summer as well. So please be on the lookout for some of that information.
- July 18-22: Children Camp will take place. The cost for Camp this year is \$300. Children's Camp will occur at Disciple's Crossing in Athens, TX.

- Trena' Jamison, Director of Children & Youth

Calendar

Sun, June 5	9:30 am	Adult Education, Adult Education classroom on the 2nd floor of the Fellowship Hall Building
	9:30 am	Children & Youth Sunday School, Room B, 2nd floor of the Fellowship Hall Building
	10:20 am	Hospitality, Huff Fellowship Hall
	10:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:00 am	Worship in-person and via live-stream
	12:30 pm	Youth Moving Forward Planning Meeting, Huff Fellowship Hall
Tue, June 7	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, June 9	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom
Thur, June 9	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
Brian Buck, Facilities Coordinator
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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