



*A Service of Worship for
17 July 2022*

Every day we are learning,
How to live with essence, not ease.
How to move with haste, never hate.
How to leave the pain that is beyond us
Behind us.

Just like a skill or any art,
We cannot possess hope without practicing it.
It is the most fundamental craft we demand of ourselves.

Amanda Gorman

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

Prelude

Walter Webber

“Trumpet Tune on Lobe den Herren”

Call to Worship

*+Opening Hymn #275

Sandon

**God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**

**God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; with us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land; be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.**

**God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

+Opening Sentences

**Martin Luther King Jr. said,
“Power without love is reckless and abusive;
love without power is sentimental and anemic.”
Each person is a center of power.
Our task is to use our personal power
on behalf of love and justice
to effect systemic change.**

Scripture Lesson

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

+Response:

Merle's Tune

**One Spirit sends us onward in witness to the earth,
as ministers of justice and midwives for rebirth:
to lead the church with courage on ventures new begun,
reformed yet still reforming, 'til God's whole will is done.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**To the Divine,
to the Holy,
to all that is Sacred we pray:**

**Whenever we
restrict your creative spirit,
restrain our dreams and visions,
resort to the predictable and unimaginative,
have mercy on us.**

**Whenever we are
silent out of the fear we will not say it “right” and
passive out of the fear we will not do it “right,”
have mercy on us.**

**Whenever we
walk when we could run, or run when we could fly,
have mercy on us.**

**Be patient with us.
Be relentless on us.
Be our inspiration
to dream new dreams,
and see new visions
of your purposes in our lives. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Music

“The Show Must Go On”

Queen

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

⁺Hymn #286

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

St. Bride

**Give to the winds thy fears; hope and be undismayed:
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears, God shall lift up thy head.**

**Through waves and clouds and storms God gently clears thy way;
Wait patiently; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.**

**Leave to God’s sov’ reign sway to choose and to command;
So shalt thou, wond’ring, own God’s way, how wise, how strong God’s
hand!**

**On God the Lord rely, and safe shalt thou go on;
Fix on God’s work thy steadfast eye, so shall thy work be done.**

Prayer

Invitation

Offering
Offertory

Richard Purvis

“Pastorale on Forest Green”

+Prayer of Dedication

**Today we give ourselves
to the movement of hope in the world
adding our small lives
to its great cause
and joining our voices
to its song
without giving up
or giving in.**

+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

**I know that God acts.
But there is no way for God to act if we,
And other created beings,
Are unwilling or unable to give substance
To God's yearnings, God's energies, God's will.
We must discern the gifts God gives us,
Accept them, employ them, pass them along.
Without our active cooperation,
God's abundance remains
Forever untapped.**

+Closing Hymn #535

Tallis' Canon

“Go with Us, Lord”

First time in unison, then twice in a round,
beginning with the garden side.

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
That in Your Spirit strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to you.**

Benediction

Postlude

GF Handel

“Final” from Organ Concerto No 5

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **David Lee**.

The Call to Worship is “Lazarus Blessing” by Jan Richardson.

The Opening Sentences are from *Reason and Reverence: Religious Humanism for the 21st Century* by William Murry.

The Unison Confession is by Jay Leach.

The music this morning is by **Mauricio Cuellar**.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Jeremy Rutledge.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *The Active Life* by Parker Palmer.

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

Adult Education - This Sunday we will again tackle the difficult problem of communicating with those with whom we do not agree. Relationship therapist Dorsey Cartwright will describe how she contributes to two organizations, No Labels and Braver Angels, to promote good faith dialogue across our political and social differences.

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

Children and Youth Announcements

Summer Activities

- **July 17, 1pm** - Children's Splash Day at Discovery Green
- **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.
- July 30 - Covenant Children Youth Lock-In
- **August 14, 12:30pm** - Children & Youth Picnic

Hi Friends and Families of Covenant,

As August approaches, we would like to get the Mentor and Youth program started. If you would like to volunteer your time and be a mentor to some of our fantastic youth at Covenant Church, please reach out to Trena' Jamison, the Director of Children and Youth, at 832-273-3895 or Trena@CovenantHouston.org.
- *Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth*

Announcements

Calendar

Sun, July 17	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
	11:00 am	Worship in-person and via live-stream

	1:00 pm	Children's Splash Day, Discovery Green
Tue, July 19	1:00 pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thur, July 21	10:00 am	Community Group, Zoom

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

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.