



*A Service of Worship for
2 June 2024*

To keep the Sabbath
is to participate in God's intention
for the rhythm of creation.

Terence Fretheim

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ringin' in the hour

Silence is kept

*Prelude

Ned Rorem
(1923-2022)

“...No darkness at all...” from *A Quaker Reader*

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #470

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

“O Day of Radiant Gladness”

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
This day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
Sing “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.**

**This day at the creation the light first had its birth;
This day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
This day our Lord victorious the Spirit sent from heaven,
And thus this day most glorious a triple light was given.**

**This day God’s people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear;
Christ’s living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.
We journey on , believing, renewed with heavenly might,
From grace more grace receiving on this blest day of light.**

**That light our hope sustaining, we walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining, our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to You our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
The church its voice upraises to You, blest Three in One.**

**Please hold silence and remain seated during the prelude*

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Opening Prayer

**You have made your dwelling
among us, God,
and you are present
wherever people live—
we cling to this grace.
Let us honor your presence
and make us wise and strong enough
to build each other up
into your city on earth,
the body of Christ,
a world fit to live in,
today and for ever.**

Invitation

Scripture Lesson

Mark 2:23-3:6

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

+Response:

Don Schlosser

“One Spirit Sends Us Onward” *MERLE'S TUNE*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 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.

+Please stand in body or spirit

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**The strange fragments of our lives
can only be comprehended when
we accept our insecurities and uncertainties,
when we accept that we will never know
what life is about or what it is supposed to mean,
when we accept that we are ordinary.
We must do the best we can, not for ourselves,
the commandments teach us, but for those around us.
It is in this darkness, this mystery of existence,
that we learn to trust. Trust is the compound that unites us.
Life comes with giving life to others.
We are the product of what came before.
The children asleep in the rooms above me are what will follow.
The quality of our life, of all life, is determined
by what we give and what we sacrifice.
We live, the commandments tell us, not by exalting our life
but by being willing to lose it.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Franz Josef Haydn
(1732-1809)

“When I Think Upon Thy Goodness”

*When I think upon Thy goodness,
And recall Thy tender care,
Then, O Lord, my heart confesseth,
How great Thy bounties are.
For thy love it ever floweth,
Like the sea, it hath no bound;
When in grief my heart was broken,
Then, O Lord, was mercy found.*

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Hymn

Forest Green

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto Me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon My breast.”**

**I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
and He has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in Him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s Light;
look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in Him my Star, my Sun;
and in that Light of life I’ll walk,
till trav’ling days are done.**

Prayer

Offering
Offertory

Pamela Decker
(b. 1955)

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

We will be tithing the cash offerings each first Sunday of the month. This means that we will give 100% 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 2, the offering tithe will go to the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. As the only organization solely devoted to building the Welcoming and Affirming movement within the Baptist traditions, AWAB has a unique call to be The National Voice for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allied Baptists in the US.

+Prayer of Dedication

To be devout

means to give oneself to God,

to take part in the movement of love in the world

and to become love oneself.

We dedicate our energy

and our resources

to work that makes love manifest.

+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

A person has no religion

who has not slowly and painfully

gathered one together, adding to it,

shaping it; and one’s religion is

never complete and final,

it seems, but must always

be undergoing modification.

“Be Thou My Vision”

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art -
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Benediction

*Postlude

Elizabeth Stirling
(1819-1895)

“Fugue on ‘Nun freut euch’” (Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice)

+Please stand in body or spirit

**Please hold silence and remain seated during the postlude*

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Dennis Robinson**.

The Call to Worship is by Thomas Merton.

The Opening Prayer is adapted from Huub Oosterhuis in *Your Word is Near*.

The Unison Confession is from *Losing Moses on the Freeway: The Ten Commandments in America* by Chris Hedges.

Deacon Susan Wegner gives the prayer.

The soloist is **Eric Avera**.

The text of “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” is by Horatius Bonar (1846).

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from “Loving God” by Dorothee Sölle.

The Affirmation of Faith is by D. H. Lawrence.

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

Adult Education - **You matter! You matter** in this world. Even if this world is full of challenges, chaos, and confusion, **you matter!** In this mindfulness movement workshop, participants will review the State of the Heart Report for 2022 from Six Seconds Emotional Intelligence Network. We will explore stressors that you may be experiencing through mindfulness breathing and movement activities to alleviate or minimize those stressors. We will use mindfulness breathing and active yoga movements to reduce stress that you may be feeling. Using these strategies in everyday life may help you be more effective throughout your day. We will use creative methods such as writing, drawing, movement to find ways to restore your body back to who you are because, **You Matter!**

- *Laura Mitchell*

Children & Youth Education -

Children's Lesson

Title: Are Two Words Enough

Lesson: Expressing Gratitude

Youth Lesson

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Children and Youth Announcements

Summer activities coming soon.

Events:

June 9-13, 2024: McMurry University Youth Camp Passport (please see newsletter for sign-up link).

Calendar

Sun. June 2	9:30am	Adult Education, Adult Education classroom on the 2nd floor of the Huff Fellowship Hall Building
	9:30am	Children & Youth Education, Room B, 2nd floor of the Huff Fellowship Hall Building
	10:20am	Hospitality, Huff Fellowship Hall Building
	11:00am	Sunday Worship in-person, Sanctuary and via live-stream, YouTube
Tue. June 4	1:00pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom
Thurs. June 6	10:00am	Community Group, Zoom

Helpful Information

Childcare: Childcare is provided in the children's area beginning at 9:30 a.m. Children aged 2 and under are invited to the nursery. Children aged 3 to 9 are invited to the children's area after the Time for Children.

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 Recycles: If you do not wish to keep your order of worship, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex.

*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

Jason Steiner, Organist

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*Covenant Church recognizes the laws of the State of Texas and the rights of its
citizens. Consistent with this acknowledgment and with respect for the values of
our Church, we also acknowledge that our congregants and visitors seek a safe
and comfortable space for worship and celebration. **In that spirit, we request that
all firearms be left in a secure place outside of the Church.** We thank God for
providing us with the opportunity to worship together and to continue to respect
each other as human beings.*