



COVENANT CHURCH

HOUSTON

A Service of Worship for
All Saints / All Souls Day
2 November 2025

“This Sacred Thread” by Heather K. Janules

They once dwelled among us, the people of memory
They who knew us, they who taught us,
They who hurt us, they who loved us.

They touch our lives time and again,
through their presence and their absence.
Through familiar scents and favorite songs,
Through old stories and renewed sorrow.

As the earth turns and leaves fall,
We reach back to renew the bonds between us.
With hearts and hands open
We hold onto love,
Ever-stronger than death.

We reach back in gratitude and understanding—
Without our time together,
The pain and the joy,
We would never be who we are today;
We would have little to pass on ourselves.

Without fear, with thanksgiving
and with hope for all that awaits,
We remember those who have gone before,
We honor the circle of life and death,
And our place within this sacred thread.

Preparing for worship with silence

*You are invited to light a candle during this service in remembrance
of the souls and saints you have known who have died.
Candles may be lit now, during the times indicated below,
and at the conclusion of the service.*

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

*Prelude

“‘II. Lapis Lazuli’ from *Colored Stones*”
You are invited to light a candle.

Jenni Brandon
(b. 1977)

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #526

“For All the Saints”

Sine Nomine

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

+Please stand in body or spirit

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

⁺Opening Prayer

**For all the saints who went before us
who have spoken to our hearts and touched us with your fire,
we praise you, O God.**

**For all the saints who live beside us
whose weaknesses and strengths are woven with our own,
we praise you, O God.**

**For all the saints who live beyond us
who challenge us to change the world with them,
we praise you, O God.**

Invitation

Missions Invitation

Scripture Lesson

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

⁺Response:

Tallis' Canon

**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.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Often we are found in our grief and comforted
calmed by some kindness
brought alive again by beauty
that catches us undefended.**

**Even when the sun is most thin and far
even at the hour the storm is at its height
we can go through**

**renewal nests within sorrow
love abides, ever beyond anger, beyond death.**

**We are held in an embrace invisible but infinite
moving with all creation
between wholeness and fragmentation
moving always toward the one.**

**Small joys and great sorrows pass
and we, with steps uncertain, move on
to whatever is next
but continually seen, heard, held
by Life infinite and remote, intimate and abiding.**

Love, do not let us go. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Music

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

“Cantique de Jean Racine”

*Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance,
Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux,
De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence :
Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.*

*Répands sur nous le feu de Ta grâce puissante ;
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de Ta voix ;
Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante
Qui la conduit à l'oubli de Tes lois !*

*Ô Christ ! sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle,
Pour Te bénir maintenant rassemblé;
Reçois les chants qu'il offre à Ta gloire immortelle,
Et de Tes dons qu'il retourne comblé.*

Word equal to God, the Almighty, our only hope,
Eternal day of the earth and heavens;
We break the silence of the peaceful night,
Divine Saviour, look upon us!

Fan the fire of your powerful grace upon us,
So that all evil may flee at the sound of your voice;
Shake off the sleep of a languishing soul,
Who has forgotten your laws!

O Christ, be kind to these faithful people
Who have now gathered in thanks.
Listen to the chants they offer to your immortal glory,
And may they come away fulfilled with your gifts!

Silent Reflection

Meditation

⁺Hymn #438

Dennis

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comfort and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

Poem

Naming Our Saints

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Cynthia Dobrinski

(1950-2021)

“Song of Hope”

You are invited to light a candle.

We will donate the cash offerings on the first Sunday of each month. This means that we will give 100% of the cash offerings to one of the mission organizations that Covenant partners with on that Sunday. These funds will be above and beyond what Covenant has budgeted to give to Missions. Today's cash offerings will go to Bel Inizio, a Houston-based nonprofit that helps disadvantaged women develop self-confidence and life skills through fitness and nutrition. Participants train for a 5K, which helps prepare them for the ultimate race — "The Race For A Better Life."

+Prayer of Dedication

**Love is the natural order,
the main attraction,
the mover of nations,
the bees in spring,
the tender touch,
the first and the last word.**

**It is like gravity,
a mysterious force that ties all things together,
the heart's memory of being in the womb
and the oneness before the Big Bang.**

The vastness of the sky is equaled by the vastness of the heart...

+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.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

⁺Affirmation of Faith

Start anywhere.

**Love dogs, cats, dolphins, squirrels,
mockingbirds, lizards, elephants.**

**Love men and women, tribes, nations,
the unending varieties of human character and theater.**

Love is a sacred wellspring that never runs out.

**The freedom of love is based on the
perennial renewal of love itself;
it actually can grow.**

It is this simple: Your whole life is a curriculum of love.

⁺Closing Hymn #529

Christe Sanctorum

“Lord of the Living”

Lord of the living, in your name assembled

We join to thank you for the life remembered.

O God, have mercy, to your children giving hope in believing.

Help us to treasure all that will remind us

Of the enrichment in the days behind us.

Your love has set us in the generations, God of creation.

May we, whenever tempted to dejection,

Strongly recapture thoughts of resurrection.

You gave us Jesus to defeat our sadness with Easter gladness.

Lord, you can lift us from the grave of sorrow

Into the presence of your own tomorrow;

Give to your people for the day's affliction your benediction.

Benediction

^{*}Postlude

Johann Sebastian Bach

“God, Through Your Holiness”

(1685-1750)

You are invited to light a candle.

⁺*Please stand in body or spirit*

^{*}*Please hold silence and remain seated during the postlude*

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Kay Duncan**, a longtime member of Covenant who now lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

Our sanctuary is decorated with papel picado for Día de los Muertos, brought by **Stephen Caldwell** from Mexico City.

The Call to Worship is “They Are With Us Still” by Kathleen McTigue.

The Opening Prayer is by Sheila Cassidy from *Soul Weavings: A Gathering of Women's Prayers*, edited by Lyn Klug.

Charity Grannis gives the Missions Invitation.

The Unison Confession is “Love Abides” by Barbara Pescan.

Joyce Courtois and **Kay Duncan** read Kay’s poem “For All the Saints at the Covenant Bistro.”

Members of the Covenant Handbells are **Sebastian Alexander, Sterling Alexander, Amanda Cox-Floyd, Lucas Cuellar, Mauricio Cuellar, Kristy Kyle, Laura Mayo, Sabrina Neff, Daniel Sanborn, Elyse Sanborn, Reid Sanborn, Sharron Sanborn, Grayson Stepp, Owen Stepp, and Kathleen Yaeger.**

The Prayer of Dedication and Affirmation of Faith are by Jack Kornfield.

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About Today's Service

Jenni Brandon is an award-winning composer whose music has been commissioned and performed around the world. Lapis Lazuli is believed to help foster truthful expression and communication. It supports the immune system and brings peace. The bassoon explores the luxurious blue color, mixing in flashes of gold found in the stone.

–Brendon Young

Announcements

Church-Wide Dinner cooked by Stephen Milano — November 5. **Today is the deadline to RSVP in the Narthex or online.**

Committees will meet on November 9.

Houston Compassion Week event — November 15 at 7pm.

Advent Secret Friends returns this year. See the newsletter or Jason Steiner for more info.

All-Church “Advance” — an on-site retreat, November 21-23. Register online!

Children and Youth Announcements

November 2 - Children & Youth Service Project: Sweet Potato Harvest in the Covenant Community Garden

November 16 - Youth Fellowship after church

November 30 - Youth Social after church

Calendar

Sun. November 2	12pm	Children & Youth Sweet Potato Harvest, Community Garden.
Mon. November 3	7pm	Insight Meditation Houston, 2nd floor of Huff Fellowship Hall building.
Wed. November 5	6:30pm	All-Church Dinner, Huff Fellowship Hall building.
Thurs. November 6	10am	Community Group, Zoom.
	1:15pm	Lunchtime Lectionary Lab, Zoom.
	7:15pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary.
Sun. November 9	9:30am	Adult Education, 2nd floor of the Huff Fellowship Hall Building: Dr. Jesse Rainbow will continue his presentation on the ancient Israelite's relationship with Africa.
	9:30am	Handbell Rehearsal, Huff Fellowship Hall.
	9:30am	Inquirers Class, Library.
	10:30am	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary.

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.

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.

Office Hours: The Church Office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8am-3pm, and Tuesday from 1pm-5pm.

Helpful Links: Scan here for digital Visitor and Celebration & Concern Cards; any sign-up forms mentioned in the Announcements; and other useful information.



*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

Trena' Jamison, Director of Children and Youth

Heather Laureles, Director of Administration & Communications

David Lee, Director of Music

Laura Mayo, Senior Minister

Jason Steiner, Organist and Associate Director of Music

Raymond Stubblefield, Minister of Congregational Life

Brendon Young, Moores School of Music Artist in Residence

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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.