



COVENANT CHURCH

H O U S T O N

A Service of Worship for
Transfiguration & Evolution Sunday
15 February 2026

“It Came to Pass on a Planet Third from a Minor Sun in a Solar System
Out on the Edge of One of the Galaxies”

If there are intelligent beings
in some other place
did Jesus go to be born
and die for them there?
If he didn't
are they still offered the grace
of God and if they aren't
is that fair?

–Miller Williams

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

*Prelude

“Pastorale”

Domenico Zipoli
(1688-1726)

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn

“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”

Hyfrydol

**Praise the source of faith and learning
that has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning
how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing
from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing
and renew our need to pray:**

**God of wisdom, we acknowledge
that our science and our art
and the breadth of human knowledge
only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation
lies a depth we cannot sound
where your purpose for creation
and the pulse of life are found.**

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

+Please stand in body or spirit

**May our faith redeem the blunder
of believing that our thought
has displaced the grounds for wonder
which the ancient prophets taught.
May our learning curb the error
which unthinking faith can breed
lest we justify some terror
with an antiquated creed.**

**As two currents in a river
fight each other's undertow
till converging they deliver
one coherent steady flow;
blend, O God, our faith and learning
till they carve a single course,
till they join as one, returning
praise and thanks to you, their Source.**

⁺Opening Sentences

**From religion comes one's purpose;
from science, his power to achieve it.
Sometimes people ask if religion and science
are not opposed to one another.
They are: in the sense that the
thumb and fingers of my hands
are opposed to one another.
It is an opposition by means of which
anything can be grasped.**

Invitation

Scripture Lesson

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Job 12:7-10; Matthew 17:1-9

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

+ Response:

Servant Song

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Humility theology emphasizes the need
for both scientists and religious believers
to recognize the limits in their way of knowing
and leave room for the other.**

**As American humorist Will Rogers puts it,
“We’re all ignorant, just on different subjects.”**

Words of Assurance

Music

Burt Szabo
(1931-2022)

“Crystal Night”

*In the calm and crystal night of my dreaming
I saw the dawn of eternal peace,
a dawn of love and care and harmony, and hope,
faith and hope that sorrow and heartache would cease.
The strong shall uphold the weak,
and the mighty give help to the helpless.
The rich shall give hope to the hopeless,
and the proud shall respect the meek.
The lion shall lie down with the lamb.*

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

+Please stand in body or spirit

"God is Known: An Evolution Sunday Hymn"

**God is known in all creation, in the oceans and the trees,
In the plains and in the mountains, in the storms and in the breeze.
God is known in every being, in its birth and life and death.
God infuses every motion, every heartbeat, every breath.**

**God is known in evolution, in the ways we grow and change.
God is known in our connections with all creatures close and strange.
God unfolds in our unfolding. God evolves as we evolve,
Coaxing order out of chaos, full of patience and resolve.**

**God is known in human action, in the work we do to learn.
God is known in our amazement and the joy we find in turn
As the knowledge we develop of the earth on which we live
Draws us closer to the holy, to the heart of all that is.**

**Now we sing in celebration of the love that has no end,
Ever shifting and unfurling, an astounding, whirling blend
Of the known and the unknowable, wondrous mystery breaking through.
God is known in all creation, making all things ever new.**

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

"Peaceful Valley Medley"

Eurydice Osterman

(b. 1950)

+Prayer of Dedication

**It is not the strongest of the species that survives,
nor the most intelligent that survives.
It is the one that is the most adaptable to change,
that lives within the means available
and works cooperatively against common threats.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

**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

**Our shared search is part of the human condition.
Some of us know what we seek and others stumble along unsure.
Yet we all come to this place with a yearning—
to find or make meaning, to live conscious lives,
to grow in kindness, to renew and remake the world
in the image of love.
Today we affirm not that we are all the same
or that we know exactly what we are doing
but that we are resolved to ask, seek, and knock together.
Today we affirm that whatever God is is revealed to us slowly,
in increments, patches and scraps of light pricking the shadows
glimpsed only by the wide-eyed and the curious.**

+Closing Hymn #458

Dexter

“Earth and All Stars”

**Earth and all stars, loud rushing planets
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain, loud blowing snowstorm
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Steel and machines, loud pounding hammers
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams, loud building workers
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We will sing praises with a new song!**

+Please stand in body or spirit

Classrooms and labs, loud boiling test tubes

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Athlete and band, loud cheering people

Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things. We will sing praises with a new song!

Knowledge and truth, loud sounding wisdom

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Daughter and son, loud praying members

Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things. We will sing praises with a new song!

Benediction

*Postlude

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Denis Bédard

(b. 1950)

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

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Ava Daughtry**.

The Call to Worship is from *Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey* by Jane Goodall.

The Opening Sentences are by William H. Bragg.

The Unison Confession is from *The Luminous Web* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

The text of “God is Known: An Evolution Sunday Hymn” is by Amanda Udis-Kessler.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Charles Darwin.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Jeremy Rutledge.

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About Today’s Service

Evolution Sunday is observed on the Sunday closest to Charles Darwin’s birthday as an exploration of the intersection of religion and science. It was created in 2006 by Michael Zimmerman, a science educator who became invested in this work, who writes,

“For too long, the misperception that science and religion are inevitably in conflict has created unnecessary division and confusion, especially concerning the teaching of evolution. I wanted to let the public know that numerous clergy from most denominations have tremendous respect for evolutionary theory and have embraced it as a core component of human knowledge, fully harmonious with religious faith.”

Since 2022, the celebration’s official name has been “Religion and Science Weekend” to reflect the diversity of holy days in the religious groups that acknowledge it and the expansiveness of scientific belief. While it is primarily a Christian movement, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, and Buddhist clergy and congregations from all fifty states and over twelve countries participate in Evolution Sunday. Covenant has celebrated Evolution Sunday since 2007.

–*Jason Steiner*

Announcements

Ash Wednesday services on February 18: Rothko Chapel at noon, Covenant at 7pm.

Subscribe to the Covenant Lent devotional at CovenantLent2026.substack.com.

Spring Organ Recital Series: Tuesdays at 12:15pm, starting on February 24.

Will Parker’s Musical Improv workshop is on February 21.

Early voting field trip after church on February 22.

Houston Food Bank service day on March 14: please see the newsletter to sign up.

The 2026 Covenant Safety Summit will be held on Saturday, February 28, at 9am.

Committees meet on April 26, August 9, and November 8.

Calendar

Sun. February 15	12:15pm	Children & Youth Auction, Huff Fellowship Hall.
Mon. February 16	7pm	Houston Sacred Harp, Sanctuary.
Wed. February 18	12pm	Ash Wednesday Meditation, Rothko Chapel (3900 Yupon St., Houston TX 77006)
	7pm	Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary.
Thurs. February 19	10am	Community Group, Zoom.
	1:15pm	Luncheon Lectionary Lab, Zoom.
Sat. February 21	9am	Will Parker's Musical Improv, Huff Fellowship Hall.
Sun. February 22	9:30am	Adult Education, 2nd floor of Huff Fellowship Hall building or on Zoom: Celia Lightfoot presents on black history.
	9:30am	Handbell Rehearsal, Huff Fellowship Hall.
	10:30am	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary.

Information

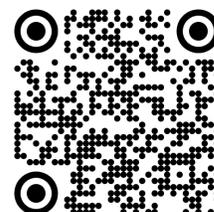
Childcare is provided in the children's area beginning at 9:30 a.m. Children aged 2 and under are invited to the nursery. Children aged 3 to 9 are invited to the children's area after the Time for Children.

All-Gender Restrooms are located in the Huff Fellowship Hall building.

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 with a personal 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, Children and Youth Coordinator

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.