



COVENANT CHURCH

H O U S T O N

A Service of Worship for the
Second Sunday of Lent
1 March 2026

You know that the flower bends
when the wind wants it to, and
you must become like that -
that is, filled with deep trust.

—Rainer Maria Rilke

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

*Prelude

“O Lord God, your Divine Word”

Miriam Carpinetti
(b. 1954)

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Beach Spring

**Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

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

+Please stand in body or spirit

**In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

⁺Opening Sentences

**It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.**

Invitation

Missions Invitation

Scripture Lesson

John 2:1-11

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

+Please stand in body or spirit

Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Response:

Dickinson College

**May God support you all your days,
in times of gladness and in need.**

**May God remember you with grace
and bless your every word and deed.**

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Commonplace miracle:
that so many commonplace miracles happen.**

**An ordinary miracle:
in the dead of night
the barking of invisible dogs.**

**One miracle out of many:
a small, airy cloud
yet it can block a large and heavy moon.**

**Several miracles in one:
an alder tree reflected in the water,
and that it's backwards left to right
and that it grows there, crown down
and never reaches the bottom,
even though the water is shallow.**

**An everyday miracle:
winds weak to moderate
turning gusty in storms.**

**First among equal miracles:
cows are cows.**

**Second to none:
just this orchard
from just that seed.**

**A miracle without a cape and top hat:
scattering white doves.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

**A miracle, for what else could you call it:
today the sun rose at three-fourteen
and will set at eight-o-one.**

**A miracle, less surprising than it should be:
even though the hand has fewer than six fingers,
it still has more than four.**

**A miracle, just take a look around:
the world is everywhere.**

**An additional miracle, as everything is additional:
the unthinkable
is thinkable.**

Words of Assurance

Music

Godfrey Sampson
(1902-1949)

“My Song Shall Be Alway of the Loving-kindness”
*My song shall be alway of the loving-kindness of the Lord:
with my mouth will I ever be showing thy truth
from one generation to another.*

Silent Reflection

Proclamation

⁺Hymn #510

Quebec

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”
**Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of all,
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn, unfilled, to heed Thy call.**

**Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,
To them that find Thee, all in all.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

**We taste Thee, O Thou living bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.**

**Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast,
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.**

**O Jesus, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
O chase the night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.**

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Margaret Sandresky

“Agnus Dei’ from *L’homme armé Organ Mass*” (b. 1921)

We will tithe 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 the Houston Food Bank. Around 1 million people in the Houston region are considered food insecure. The Houston Food Bank distributes food and other essentials to those in need through a network of more than 1,600 community partners.

+Prayer of Dedication

This is my prayer—

That, though I may not see,

I be aware

Of the Silent God

Who stands by me.

That, though I may not feel,

I be aware

+Please stand in body or spirit

**Of the Mighty Love
Which doggedly follows me.
That, though I may not respond,
I be aware
That God—my Silent, Mighty God,
Waits each day.
Quietly, hopefully, persistently.
Waits each day and through each night
For me.
For me—alone.**

⁺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

**In every arrival there is a leave-taking;
in every reunion there is a separation;
in each one's growing up there is a growing old;
in every smile there is a tear;
and in every success there is a loss.
All living is dying, and all celebration is mortification too.**

⁺Closing Hymn #282

Wer nur der lieben Gott

“If Thou but Trust In God to Guide Thee”

**If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
With hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
To bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that nought can move.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

**Only be still, and wait God's leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
And all-discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear
To One who holds us always dear.**

**Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
But do thine own part faithfully;
Trust the rich promises of grace,
So shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
The soul secured by trust indeed.**

Benediction

*Postlude

“Fugue on ‘O Traurigkeit, O Herzeleid’”

Ethel Smyth
(1858-1944)

+Please stand in body or spirit

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

Worship Notes

The worship leader is **Jacy Grannis**.

The Call to Worship is by Ajahn Amaro.

The text of “Come and Find the Quiet Center” is by Shirley Erena Murray.

The Opening Sentences are “For Lent, 1966” by Madeleine L’Engle.

Amanda Cox-Floyd gives the Invitation.

The Unison Confession is “Miracle Fair” by Wislawa Szymborska.

Annie Christensen gives the proclamation.

The Prayer of Dedication is “Silent God” from *There Was No Path So I Trod One* by Edwina Gateley.

The Affirmation of Faith is from *Show Me The Way: Daily Lenten Readings* by Henri Nouwen.

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About Today’s Service

This week’s scripture is John 2:1-11. I will read from the King James Version, which is the translation I most familiar with as a renaissance scholar. (That, and the Geneva Bible.) It is the story of the wedding at Cana, widely understood to be Jesus’s entry into his public ministry. Since this Lent at Covenant is dedicated to biblical women, we can see this remarkable beginning as relational, coming out of Jesus’s relationship with his mother, Mary. As a little Catholic girl, I loved Mary, always dressed in blue, and all the beautiful songs we sang to her, especially in May.

–*Annie Christensen*

Announcements

Spring Organ Recital Series: Tuesdays at 12:15pm, continuing through March 24.

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

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

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

Calendar

Sun. March 1	12pm	Kitchen Training, Kitchen.
	12:15pm	Youth Fellowship, Huff Fellowship Hall.
Mon. March 2	7pm	Insight Meditation, Huff Fellowship Hall.
Tues. March 3	12:15pm	Spring Organ Recital Series: Matthew Dion with oboist Anne Pinkerton-Dion, Sanctuary.
Thurs. March 5	10am	Community Group, Zoom.
	1:15pm	Luncheon Lectionary Lab, Zoom.
	7:15pm	Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary.
Sun. March 8	9:30am	Adult Education, 2nd floor of Huff Fellowship Hall building or on Zoom: Brendon Young, Covenant's Artist in Residence, presents "What's a Bassoon?"
	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.