



COVENANT CHURCH

H O U S T O N

A Service of Worship for the
Fifth Sunday of Eastertide
3 May 2026

I admire Christianity more than anything—
Christianity as symbolized by gentle people sharing a common bowl.

—Kurt Vonnegut

Preparing for worship with silence

Gathering in peace

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Ring in the hour

Silence is kept

*Prelude

François Devienne

“Sonata for Bassoon and Basso Continuo in F Major, II. Largo” (1759-1803)

Call to Worship

+Opening Hymn #314

Bridegroom

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

Like the murmur of the dove’s song,

Like the challenge of her flight,

Like the vigor of the wind’s rush,

Like the new flame’s eager might:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ’s Body,

To the branches of the Vine,

To the church in faith assembled,

To her midst as gift and sign:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division,

With the ceaseless voice of prayer,

With the power of love and witness,

With the peace beyond compare:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

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

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Opening Sentences

Love is the answer.

Community is the context.

Tenderness is the methodology.

Invitation

Missions Invitation

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:42-47; 3:1-10

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Children

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Response:

Truro

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Words of Assurance

+Please stand in body or spirit

Music

Traditional

“Amazing Grace”

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.*

Silent Reflection

Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Camille Saint-Saëns

“The Swan”

(1835-1921)

*On the first Sunday of each month, 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 **Montrose Grace Place**, which provides free meals, mentorship, professional and financial assistance, and community to LGBTQ teenagers and young adults with housing insecurity.*

+Prayer of Dedication

**Jesus at the table,
which one are you? The one asking for
the bread, or the one passing the salt?
The one listening, or laughing,
or asking awkward questions?
Every table is a possibility of encounter.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

**Help us make it so,
with questions and answers, with
listening and change,
with food and drink,
with love and soup and invitation.
Amen.**

⁺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.**

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

⁺Hymn

Dove of Peace

"I Come With Joy"

**I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

+Please stand in body or spirit

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.**

**The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Our communion elements include both wine and white grape juice, and gluten-free and vegan crackers. All are always welcome to communion at Covenant.

+Communion Response

St. Peter

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close binding humankind.**

+Affirmation of Faith

**The final word is love... To love we must know each other...
and we know each other in the breaking of bread,**

+Please stand in body or spirit

**and we are not alone any more. Heaven is a banquet and
life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. We have all
known the long loneliness and
we have learned that the only solution is love
and that love comes with community.**

+Closing Hymn #435

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

“We All Are One in Mission”

**We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ’s love.**

**We all are called for service to witness in God’s name;
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others by God’s surprising grace
So every folk and nation may feel God’s warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God’s redeeming word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

Benediction

+Postlude

Devienne

“Sonata for Bassoon and Basso Continuo in F Major, I. Allegro”

+Please stand in body or spirit

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

Worship Notes

The worship leaders are **Marsha and Warren Holleman**.

The Call to Worship is from *Somehow: Thoughts on Love* by Anne Lamott.

The Opening Sentences are by Father Greg Boyle.

Charity Grannis gives the Missions Invitation.

The Unison Confession is by Isaac Pennington.

Deacon Amanda Cox-Floyd gives the Prayer.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *being here: Prayers for Curiosity, Justice, and Love* by Padraig O Tuama.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Dorothy Day from *The Long Loneliness*.

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About Today's Service

The Devienne Bassoon Sonata is a great example of how the bassoon was utilized in the Baroque era. Having played this on my senior recital, I enjoyed all of the fun technical passages as well as spots for beautiful ornamentation. The second movement was one of my favorite things I played in my recital since nearly all of the ornaments I used were my own ideas. The second movement is absolutely beautiful and I think it's a shame that it isn't longer.

—*Brendon Young*

Announcements

On Wednesday, **May 13** Covenant will prepare and serve a meal together at Montrose Grace Place. Sign up to serve or donate food at the link in the newsletter or using the bulletin QR code.

The Covenant Singers will present Will Todd's *Jazz Missa Brevis* in worship, accompanied by the Rob Landes Trio, on **May 17**.

Covenant Handbells will play on Mother's Day, **May 10**.

Covenant t-shirts have arrived. If you pre-ordered, please check your email for payment information. If you forgot to order, please contact Jason Steiner.

Calendar

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| Sun. May 3 | 12:15pm | Youth Fellowship, Huff Fellowship Hall Building. |
| | 4 pm | Victor Vela's Piano Recital, Dudley Recital Hall at University of Houston. |
| Mon. May 4 | 7pm | Insight Meditation, Huff Fellowship Hall. |
| Thurs. May 7 | 10am | Community Group, Zoom. |
| | 1:15pm | Lunctime Lectionary Lab, Zoom. |
| | 7pm | Covenant Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary. |
| Sun. May 10 | 9:30am | Adult Education, 2nd floor of Huff Fellowship Hall building or on Zoom. |
| | 9:30am | Handbell Rehearsal, Huff Fellowship Hall. |
| | 9:30am | Inquirers Class, Library in Sanctuary building. |
| | 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 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, 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.