

Covenant Presbyterian Church

9:30 and 11:00 am

Austin, Texas
Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2008

PREPARATION

WELCOME

Please sign the friendship register at this time and pass it down the row, then return it to its original position, noting the names of those worshipping with you. At the conclusion of the service, take time to greet one another in the name of Christ

PRELUDE

Aria

Paul Manz

PRAISING GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us worship God, for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.

People: Listen, listen to me, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

Leader: We have come to hear the Word God has sent.

People: God's Word will not return empty but will accomplish through us his holy purpose.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: Then we will go out with joy and be led forth in peace;

All: The mountains and the hills will sing; the trees of the field will clap their hands.

*HYMNS OF PRAISE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Hymn 96, stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 5

Let's Sing unto the Lord

Hymn 33

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, forgive our doubting, questioning hearts. Like the scribes who witnessed Jesus' miracles of healing and heard his proclamation, yet spurned belief, we too have seen wonders, yet have hardened our hearts. We confess the many times that our pessimism has caused others to doubt themselves and your Spirit, the times that our criticism has wounded others, the times that our dejection has dampened the enthusiasm of those inspired by your Word and work. O god, forgive us and in your mercy renew us, that with open hearts we may believe and never pose an obstacle to the faith of others . . .

SUNG CONFESSION (11:00)

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge; but forgive what is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk with a perfect heart before Thee now and evermore. Amen.

The GraceNotes Ensemble

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 734

* - Those who are able, please stand

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM (9:30)

Lily Evarts Carsner
Born August 27, 2007
Daughter of Jack and Jennifer Carsner
Deacon: Richard Wood Elder: Chris Szaniszló

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON (11:00)

Kay Sockol

(11:00 – Younger children dismissed for Children's Worship)

ANTHEM

(9:30)

I Sing the Greatness of Our God
The Nine-Thirty Choir
Karen Horn, soloist

Fred Bock

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:21-28

New Testament, Page 812

SERMON

WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP!
Jesus the Rabbi

Rick Murray

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Lord of the Dance

Hymn 118, stanzas 1, 3, and 5

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (9:30)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMISSIONING OF SENEGAL MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS (11:00)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING OF OURSELVES IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(9:30)

Almighty, Unchangeable God
The Nine-Thirty Choir

Cindy Berry

(11:00)

More Love

arr. Sid Davis

*More love, more love; The heavens are blessing, the angels are calling, O Zion, more love.
If ye love not each other in daily communion, how can ye love God, whom ye have not seen?*

The GraceNotes Ensemble

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN FOR GOING FORTH

Go Forth for God

Hymn 708, stanzas 1 and 4

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (11:00)

Gaelic Blessing
The GraceNotes Ensemble

John Rutter

*POSTLUDE

Processional for Organ

Warren Martin

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Rick MacArthur at 8:15; James Lee at 9:00 and 6:30 (New Covenant Fellowship); Chesney Szaniszlo at 9:30; Robbie Ytterberg at 11:00; Dora Arce Valentín at 11:30 (Iglesia Luyanó, our sister church in Cuba); Melaina Dickenson at 11:15, and Mitchell Holley at 6:30

Jill Williams preaching at 11:15

John Schmidt, organist

The Nine-Thirty Choir – John Winkler, director; Tatiana Storojev Stephanova, accompanist
The GraceNotes Ensemble – Tom Brown, director

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Tom and Shirley McGee in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary on March 5.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Sandy (Tita/Lita) and Dudley (Pop) Youman celebrating the lives and birthdays of their March grandchildren – Haley Youman (11), Austin, Sierra Estep (5), Scottsdale, AZ, and Carson Youman (13), Fairfax, VA.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AT COVENANT

March 17, 18, and 19 – Worship at Noon in the Sanctuary

March 20 – Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

March 21 – Good Friday Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday – March 23

6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service

8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am Celebration of the Resurrection in the Sanctuary

9:45 and 11:15 am – Celebration of the Resurrection in Eaton Hall

There will be NO 6:30 pm Worship Service on March 23

Out of respect for our neighbors, please refrain from parking on the streets in the Allandale neighborhood, especially on Louise Lane and Marilyn Street.

Overflow parking is located in the UTAIC parking garage, and the Park and Shuttle Service is available to bring you to the Covenant Campus

For more information about events at Covenant,
please see our *Covenant Matters* handout in the Narthex.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO COVENANT

Welcome! We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us today! We ask that you identify yourself by signing the red attendance book in each pew. Following each service, you are invited to stop by our Visitor's Table to pick up information on Covenant's many groups, programs and events. We want you to feel welcome here and hope that we can help you find ways to grow in your faith.

Five services of worship are offered each Sunday—8:15 a.m. (a traditional Communion service), 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (traditional services), 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (contemporary services). A shuttle service runs from 8:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. carrying worshippers from the UTAIC parking lot at 5508 Parkcrest Drive, 1/2 mile west of Covenant.

You may become a member of Covenant by profession of faith and baptism, reaffirmation of faith or letter of transfer. The Session meets TODAY, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service for the purpose of receiving new members. Would you like to know more about Covenant and what we believe as Presbyterians? You're invited to join one of our New Member Classes that begin periodically throughout the year. For more information, please contact Mary Helen Mitchell at 512-334-3018 or mhmittell@covenant.org.

COVENANT PRAYS

Prayers of sympathy and support for – Diane Workman on the death of her cousin, Jessica Derr, on February 29 in McCracken, KS.

Prayers for recently hospitalized – Jim Stansell.

Prayers for – Barb Sleet, Stephanie Meyer Kelly, David Miller, Beverly Miller, Rick Roth, Phil Harvell, Bob Ferguson, Ginger Hurst, Emily Bernard, Gregg Mason, Michael and Alice Macdonald Harris, Carolyn Walker, Dorice Jeffries, Casey Bernholz, Roy Tomlin, Beverly Wight, Forrest Roan, Doris Mitchell, Dorothy Billman, Minor Walker, Barbara Knisely, Christopher MacDonald, Julie Highley, Heidi Nicholson, Bette Place, Sara Chenault, Hugh Byler, Patti Sullivan, Mark Caesar, Jr., Jack Skaggs, Geanne Taylor, and Hal Meyer.

Prayers requested by our sister church, **Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Luyanó, in Havana Cuba** – Por Jesús Pérez Carbón, Rev. Alejandro Nieto, Rev. Pedro Mayor y Ana Luisa Puerta, por la familia de nuestro hermano Elier Delgado; de nuestra familia global: Sue & Karl Gerke, Rev. James Lee. Por el mejoramiento de las relaciones entre los gobiernos de Cuba y los Estados Unidos.

Prayers request by our Missions Committee – Tijuana Project Casas and Habitat for Humanity.

Prayers for seminary students under Covenant's care – Anna Whitehead – anna.whitehead@ptsem.edu.

Homebound Friend of the Week (notes of encouragement are welcome – for more information contact Kay Austin) Mrs. Jean Fulkerson – Deacon is Julie Addington.

Although prayer requests will be removed from this listing after three weeks, please contact Kay Austin in the church office, 334-3030, or kaustin@covenant.org, if prayer continues to be requested.

Recycling containers for this publication are available in the Narthex.