

Covenant Presbyterian Church

8:15 am

Austin, Texas
Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 20, 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

PRAISING GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All who thirst, come to the water.

People: Come, all who are weary; come, all who yearn for forgiveness.

Leader: The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us,
And our gracious and holy God beckons and blesses us.

Drink deeply of these living waters.

People: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

We Have Come to Join in Worship

Hymn 647

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us . . .

SUNG RESPONSE

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Hymn 484, sung 2 times

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 734

*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.

* - Those who are able, please stand

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:7-21

New Testament, Page 991

SERMON

A CHURCH AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART WILL BE...
Loving and Caring Because He First Loved Us

Jill Williams

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

The Gift of Love

Hymn 397

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

INVITATION

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

I Am the Bread of Life

Refrain: And I will raise you up; and I will raise you up;
And I will raise you up on the last day.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Hymn 393, stanza 1

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

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

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

Tom Mitchell preaching at 11:15

John Schmidt, organist

The Nine-Thirty Choir – John Winkler, director; Tatiana Storojev Stephanova, accompanist

The Sanctuary Choir – Tom Brown, director

ProMusica Handbells – Linda Rutherford, director

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Linda Southwick in honor of the installation of her son-in-law, Jack Peebles, as Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Yakima, WA.

Mission Statement

*By God's own grace and power,
Covenant Presbyterian Church will be a church of
passionate worship,
sacrificial service,
respectful evangelism,
authentic fellowship,
and rich discipleship –
a place where seekers are invited and equipped
to become mature disciples of Christ
in Austin and around the world.*

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 the second Sunday of each month, 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 mhmittchell@covenant.org.

COVENANT PRAYS

Prayers of sympathy and support for – Julie Pitner, family, and friends, on the death of her father, Norman Herzfeld, on April 9 in Wichita Falls, TX.

Prayers for – Bette Hawkins Place, Don Bissell, Helen Bandy, Betty Randall, Jim Clayton, Judy Gwinn, Corbin Fanning, Roy Tomlin, Dora Arce Valentin, Cindy Adams, Jane Mack, Bill and Billie Greenlee, Bob Davis, Miranda Cortez, Bonnie Glasgow, Jim Stansell, Darlene Nutter, Hugh Byler, Heidi Nicholson, Rick Roth, Minor Walker, Dorothy Billman, Doris Mitchell, Casey Bernholz, Dorice Jeffries, Carolyn Walker, David Miller, Beverly Miller, Geanne Taylor, Phil Harvell, Stephanie Meyer Kelly, and Barb Sleet.

Prayers requested by our sister church, **Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Luyanó, in Havana Cuba** – Jesús Pérez Carbón, Rev. Pedro Mayor y Ana Luisa Puerta, Adalys Vásquez, Alberto Iglesias, Rubén Bao, Carlos Taboada. De nuestra familia global: Sue & Karl Gerke, Rev. James Lee. Por el Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba y todas las personas que han sido elegidas para ocupar responsabilidades en esta institución.

Prayers request by our Missions Committee – Moses House in Zambia by Alliance for Children Everywhere.

Prayers for seminary students under Covenant's care – Aquanetta Hicks – aquanetta.hicks@austinseminary.edu.

Homebound Friend of the Week (notes of encouragement are welcome – for more information contact Kay Austin) Ms. Olga Waterbury. Deacon is Annette Dow.

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.