



Silent Meditation

Capitalism does not permit an even flow of economic resources. With this system, a small privileged few are rich beyond conscience, and almost all others are doomed to be poor at some level. That's the way the system works. And since we know that the system will not change the rules, we are going to have to change the system.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

For many years we have shown an amazing patience. We have sometimes given our white brothers the feeling that we liked the way we were being treated. But we come here tonight to be saved from that patience that makes us patient with anything less than freedom and justice.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

January 15, 2017

Gathering Music & Chiming Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✠ Gregg Walker

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

*(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them.)*

Opening Voluntary Jared Fischer

Call to Worship Robbie Furr

One: God of the prophets, call to us today,

Many: Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us,

Many: Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You,

Many: Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of all creation, help us to know Your ways,

**ALL: We gather to hear Your call, to sing Your praise, to teach
each other, to pray and worship as the people of God called
to be Your Beloved Community.**

* Passing of the Peace Robbie Furr

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the
peace of Christ is here to stay.

Many: Thanks be to God.

** All rise in body or spirit ☩ Sing Response ✠ Hymnals located below pews*

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn has died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Children's Offering & Message

Lisa Cloninger

(Following the Children's Message, pre-schoolers may go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children's Church.)

Contemporary Reading

Suzanne Lamorey

Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King, Jr.

You may well ask: "Why direct action? Why sit ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored. My citing the creation of tension as part of the work of the nonviolent resister may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word "tension." I have earnestly opposed violent tension, but there is a type of constructive, nonviolent tension which is necessary for growth. Just as Socrates felt that it was necessary to create a tension in the mind so that individuals could rise from the bondage of myths and half truths to the unfettered realm of creative analysis and objective appraisal, so must we see the need for nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help (citizens) rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood. The purpose of our direct action program is to create a situation so crisis packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation. I therefore concur with you in your call for negotiation. Too long has our beloved Southland been bogged down in a tragic effort to live in monologue rather than dialogue.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Prayers of the People

Gregg Walker

This is my wish, my wish for the world,
That peace would find its way to every boy and girl.
This is the time, the time for harmony;
Let love be the song that everybody sings.

Fill the air with joyful noise; ring the bells and raise your voice.
Let there be peace on earth; let there be peace on earth.
Lift your light and let it shine - shine, shine, shine!
Let every voice be heard; let there be peace on earth.

I hear the sweetest sound, the sound of hope to come.
Together we can bring good will to everyone.
Let it start with you; let it start with me.
Let every nation arise and sing this melody.

* Gospel Lesson

Genesis 1:26-27

Gregg Walker

Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’

So God created humankind in God’s image,
in the image of God, God created them;
male and female God created them.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Sermon

“The Basis of the Dream: Rodney S. Sadler, Jr.
Changing Hearts to Change the World.”

φ When the lines are drawn, when you're in or out,
When it's us or them, and we shame the doubt,
It is all a lie, all we ever really need is love,
There's no need to shed more blood

Look upon the cross. Look upon the cross.
See the face of Christ; see the mercy in His eyes,
Every valley shall be lifted high.
Now, our enemies are blessed, the heavy laden rest,
For His judgment is love

There is no more guilt, there is no more shame,
All our darkest sin, all our deepest pain.
Blessed are the poor, all the lonely broken lost and torn;
See a kingdom comes to us.
A war that's fought with love, our only war is love.

Prepare the way of the Lord, wielding mercy like a sword,
Every mountaintop shall be made low.
Know, He holds the earth like dust, and His judgment comes to us,
And His judgment is love, His judgment is love.

We will not fight their wars, we will not fall in line,
Cause if it's us or them, it's us for them.
We reject the either or, they can't define us anymore,
Cause if it's us or them, it's us for them.

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offertory

Jared Fischer

*** Offering Response**

☐ **We give the but thine own, what e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, we give it gratefully.**

*** Offertory Dedication**

Gregg Walker

*** Response 581**

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

☐ **Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust,
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.**

*** Benediction**

Rodney S. Sadler, Jr.

*** Benediction Response "I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"**

I'M SO GLAD

☐ **I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
Singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
Singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**Satan had me bound; Jesus set me free.
Satan had me bound; Jesus set me free.
Satan had me bound; Jesus set me free.
Singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

Postlude

Jared Fischer

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT-HARRIS

WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

We welcome all who worship with us at Holy Covenant. Guests and members, we invite you to sign our friendship pads so that we may have a record of your worshipping with us and be in touch with you during the week. Members, please indicate any changes in your contact information. We invite our visitors and members to linger following worship and join us in light refreshments and conversation.

JOIN OUR NEW MEMBER - INQUIRER'S CLASSES THIS JANUARY

If you would like to learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, attend our Inquirer's Classes Sundays at 9:30AM.

January 22: Who We Are & What We Believe,

January 29, History of UCC & Holy Covenant,

February 5: Organization & Opportunities for Involvement.

We will welcome new members on February 12. Please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending.

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST PREACHER DR. RODNEY SADLER

Rodney S. Sadler Jr. is a professor at Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Charlotte. He was also a founding member of the Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice. His first book, *Can A Cushite Change His Skin? An Examination of Race, Ethnicity, and Othering in the Hebrew Bible*, was published in 2005. We are delighted to welcome him once again to Holy Covenant!

THANK YOU RITI VOLUNTEERS!

We are especially grateful to Terry and Jean Raley-Dennis, Julie and Joe McLelland, Suzanne Lamorey, Sally Duffy, Linda Lawyer, and the Ward and Harrison Hughes families for hazarding the wintry weather last Sunday to host our homeless neighbors. Can you help us in February? Sign up in Gathering Room!

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT IN BLOWING ROCK, JANUARY 13-16

Pastor Nancy Allison and new member Darian Spencer are accompanying our students to the Southern Conference **Winter Retreat** at Blowing Rock. The conference theme “What is Your Purpose?” will be interpreted by Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri who is the director of Creation Care Alliance in Asheville, NC.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

For the last several weeks Youth Pastor Steven Burleson has been meeting with Micah Baldonado, Sydney Brown, Annika Decker, Elana Houlihan, Jocelyn Hughes, and Justine Hughes as they think together about matters of faith. They will be confirmed into the congregation on **January 29** and we hope you will be there to welcome them in this pilgrimage of faith.

CONSISTORY RETREAT

Our Consistory will gather the weekend of January 20 & 21 to begin discussing ways to best serve Holy Covenant. If you have any concerns you would like to share with the leadership team, please feel free to contact one of them. Officers for the New Year are: Jeff Hughes, President; Jeff Edwards-Knight, Vice-President, Cheryl Milam, Secretary, & Diane Neese, Treasurer. Other members of Consistory include: Yvette Ross, Renee Brown, Micheal Hall, Karen Long, Michael Baldonado, Faye Humphrey, Joe Behr-Stenzel, Lynn Chavarria, Sally Duffy, Kathleen Smith, Martha Bomely, and Jim Hong.

BOOK CLUB GATHERING

Jon Heaslet will be leading our discussion of Gyasi's *Homegoing*, which should provide rich conversation. Join us February 13 at 11:00 AM, at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive. We have tentatively listed *American Dervish* for March.

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:

Elder for January:

Michael Baldonado, michaelbaldonado@hotmail.com or 502-541-5957

Recyclers: Lynn Chavarria

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Kim Cobb, Scotty Foster, Barry Holcomb, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins

Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Lloyd Spencer, Gussie Spencer, Eileen Howe

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Martha Bomely in the death of her mother-in-law, Arline Bomely.

Peggy Harrison in the death of her mother, Shirley Otty.

MaryLou Iantosca & her partner, Denise, in the death of Denise's mother, Doris Gilbert.

Micki Spear and the Landberg family, in the death of Micki's brother-in-law, Ted Landberg.

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Karen Griffin, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Matthew Christian, (Beth Sharp), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, Jonathan Funderburk (Donna Collins), CD & Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Jay Patel (Karen Griffin), Tracy Reed (Dawn Simmons), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson)

Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published, please contact the church office by phone or email.

No matter who you are
or where you are on your journey,
you are welcome here!

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ
Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor
Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director
Mr. Steven Burlison, Youth & Young Adult Pastor
Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant
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