



love of children ~ creation ~ neighbor

Silent Meditation

The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let the dead things go. ~ Maya Angelou

Love is the strongest force the world possesses and yet it is the humblest imaginable. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

In a real sense all life is inter-related. All...are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...

This is the inter-related structure of reality.

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
3 Great Loves: Love of Creation

October 1, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Cheri Dennis

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you!

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

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Jeff Edwards Knight

One: God of our lives, your Word is one of communion, not division.

**Many: Your gifts are gifts of abundance, peace, and freedom, not
scarcity, violence, and oppression.**

One: We thank you that in Christ you have given us the greatest gift:
you gave us yourself.

**All: As we gather as one with Christians throughout the world,
may your gifts and your presence be received with joy and
humility. Amen.**

* Passing of the Peace

Jeff Edwards Knight

One: We are renewed by the love of God and the love of our sisters
and brothers in Christ. So 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*

* Hymns

“O Worship Our God”

LYONS

O worship our God, all glorious above
Whose depth stretches broad with infinite love
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of thy might, O sing of thy grace
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space
Thy chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And strong is thy path on the wings of the storm.

Refrain: You alone are the Matchless One
To you alone may all praise be sung
Your glories and wonders, what tongue can recite?
You breathe in the air, you shine in the light.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light.
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain. (*Refrain*)

O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to worship above
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

"A New Hallelujah"

Can you hear, there's a new song
Breaking out from the children of freedom
Every race and every nation
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Let us sing love to the nations
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us
Make it known and make it famous
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Chorus: Arise, let the church arise, Let Love reach to the other side.
Alive, come alive, let the song arise.

Everyone sings a new song
Reaching out with a new Hallelujah
Every son and every daughter
Everyone sing a new Hallelujah. (*Chorus*)

Children's Message & Offering

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

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

Hebrew Wisdom

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Martha Bomely

(Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill)

Listen well, O people of the earth, to inner promptings of the Spirit;

Let Silence enter your house that you may hear!

For within your heart Love speaks: not with words of deceit,

But of spiritual truths to guide you upon the paths of peace.

Do not hide this from your children; teach of the inward Voice, and

help all generations to listen in the Silence,

That they may know the Beloved and be free to follow the precepts of Love.

Remember how the sea was divided so the people passed through,

how the waters stood as a wall;

How in the daytime, they were led with a cloud,

and through the night with a fiery light.

Recall how the rocks in the wilderness cracked open,

that the people might drink their fill as from the deep;

Yes, streams came out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

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

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

Journey to Generosity

Martha Bomely

Gift of Music

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Kristin Andes

arr. Angie Bemiss

(Based on an 1868 paraphrase of Psalm 23)

The King of Love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever.

In death's dark vale I will not fear with Thee, dear Lord, beside me.

Thy rod and staff, my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 2: 8-13 Anne Findlay-Chamberlain
(*The Message translation*)

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God's* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

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

“Life at the Table” Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

Offertory Invitation

Cheri Dennis

Offering Music

"Vapor"

by M. and L. Gungor

Holy Covenant Cooperative

Oh the vapor of it all, it's a chasing of the wind
The substance of the form, so pale and thin
Let the veil of earth be stretched again

Holy / All behold the holy
Trees clap their hands for you / Oceans, they dance for you

Heaven breathes through humankind
We can feel the intertwine
The beauty of it all
The mystery / The swelling of a voice / A rising sea

Holy / All behold the holy
Trees clap their hands for you / Oceans, they dance for you
You are holy / Infinite and holy

A billion suns rise for you / Clouds paint the skies for you
Mountains stand tall for you / Valleys bow down to you
Everything rising to / Sing all our songs to you (*Interlude*)

Holy / The impossible and holy
Kings become fools for you / Kingdoms to ruins for you
Vapor finds ground in you / Music finds sound in you
Everything rising (x5) (*Interlude*)

Come like dawn / Like grace / Like sunlight
Bring this world to life
Come like rain / Like breath / Like springtime
Bring this world to life

* Offering Response

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ Praise God who gives all blessings birth;
Praise God all creatures on the earth;
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free;
One holy God in persons three. Amen.

* Offertory Dedication

Cheri Dennis

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Communion

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

* One: As part of the world-wide community of Christians, we remember Jesus' meal with his disciples.

Many: **Our variety of bread today is a physical reminder of the range of Christian experience, both close to us and around the world.**

One: Jesus sets the table where we dine today. Jesus' welcome extends to all of humanity.

Many: **People of all ages, of all genders, of all cultures and cultures, of all economic conditions are welcome here.**

One: No one can earn a place at this meal. Come of your own choice. Bring your hopes and your history. Bring your deliberations and your doubts. Come as your whole self.

All: **Wherever we are on our individual journeys, we know that we are welcome to partake of this meal.**

Words of Institution

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

(Please come forward as directed by the ushers. Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements. The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.)

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

One: The sweet Spirit of God has blessed us! Let us give thanks.

Many: Thank you!

One: The great Spirit of God will guide us! Let us give thanks.

Many: Thank you!

One: The humble Spirit of God is with us. Let us give thanks.

Many: Thank you!

* Benediction

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

* Benediction 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.

Postlude

Jared Fischer

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

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.

PLEASE WELCOME GUEST PREACHER THE REV ANNE FINDLAY-CHAMBERLAIN

Rev. Anne Findlay-Chamberlain is an ordained United Church of Christ pastor, and serves with *In Christ Supporting Ministries*, a validated ministry of the Presbytery of Charlotte, where she focuses on practical spirituality. After serving as senior pastor in Hawaii for 15 years, she is now practicing spiritual direction for individuals and groups, and leads retreats. She and her spouse, Rod, have two adult children and four grandchildren.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

We give thanks, especially, for members of our church family who took the time to bake bread in celebration of this World Communion Sunday. Barry Holcomb's Jewish challah bread will be served during Communion, alongside the gluten free wafers. And we will celebrate a more casual Communion in the gathering room after the service when we enjoy Caribbean pineapple nut bread and pita baked by Martha Bomely, Indian flatbread baked by Tina Ettesen, African stovetop bread baked by Sue Pascucci and Irish sodabread baked by Barb Schneller.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR BEGINS TODAY

Rev. Susan Bennett Stiles and Martha Bomely will be leading a brief time of singing for our children each Sunday from noon - 12:15. The goal is to help children enjoy singing songs of faith - not to become a full-fledged choir. We hope your child can stay for that brief amount of time and learn some songs together. Questions? Call Susan at 989-860-5876.

12x12 SERVE. STAND UP. SHARE.

Take action with Missions & Justice! We need to be heard; we need to act! M&J wants to know how the people of Holy Covenant are responding to the many issues facing our people and our society today. Write your mission, drop it in the basket in the Gathering Room and M&J will track them as the year goes along.

- Support the UNCC students with gently used professional clothing for interviews! Food items and clothing can be dropped in the basket in the gathering room. Jimal Niner Student Pantry expanded their outreach to UNCC students seeking work.
- Help stamp out hunger. Join the Charlotte CROP Walk
- Not one, but one hundred sandwiches at a time! The HCUCC Sandwich Ministry gathers Saturday Oct. 21, Holy Covenant UCC & Wednesday, Oct 25, South Park Christian Church. Join us, won't you?!

SAVE THE DATES! ROOM IN THE INN DEPENDS UPON YOU!!

DECEMBER 10, JANUARY 14, FEBRUARY 11, MARCH 11

The Missions & Justice team is gearing up and WE need a coordinator(s) for the Room In The Inn Ministry (RITI). It's incredibly important that we reach out to OUR local neighbors awaiting housing, especially when the temperatures drop. Volunteers are also needed for set up, clean up, over night leaders, transportation, and various meals. If you are willing to coordinate or (co-coordinate!) please connect soon with Lloyd or Gussie Spencer, lloydspencer@traid.rr.com or 336-420-6030. Watch for the sign-up sheets in the gathering room starting mid-November.

WEDNESDAY YOGA

We'll be taking a break on October 4th and 11th. Facebook: HCUCC Yoga4all.

CROP HUNGER WALK OCTOBER 14

All walkers are invited to join the largest hunger walk in the USA, Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m. All interested in walking with the church group, please contact Tina Dickens, taichitina@gmail.com. For more information visit Church World Service at cwsglobal.org.

UCC'S DISASTER MINISTRIES welcomes financial donations to support relief and recovery efforts. Contributions can be made via secure online donation at http://www.ucc.org/donate_to_disaster_relief. 100% of funds to the United Church of Christ are used for disaster relief and rehabilitation programming.

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

Elder for October: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@aol.com or 704-618-2750

Deacons for October: Martha Bomely, Sally Duffy

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

Greeters: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barbara Schneller, Moses Taylor

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Renee Brown, Kelly Gimlin

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Alix Felsing & Tommy Tomlinson in the death of Alix's father, Richard Felsing. Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, David Cable, Donna Collins, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed & Beth Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Nancy Knapp (Suzanne Hopkins), Beth Poyer Meyer, Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto & Family (Aida Marcial), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Cindy Wagner (Donna Collins), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor

Ms. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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