



Silent Meditation

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was “well timed” in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word “Wait!” It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This “Wait” has almost always meant “Never.” We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that “justice too long delayed is justice denied...”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr., Letters from the Birmingham Jail, 1963

There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr., A Proper Sense of Priorities, April 4, 1968

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ~ BELOVED COMMUNITY SUNDAY

January 20, 2019

Gathering Music

David Gilliland

Welcome and Announcements

Fred Robinson

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.)*

Expression of Faith “I Have Been to the Mountaintop”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Video

* Call to Worship

Jim Hong

One: We gather to worship God, who has in love, created each of us.

Many: **Who created us with diverse gifts, abilities, skin colors,
orientations, and passions.**

One: We gather to worship God, who through Jesus has inspired each
of us to embrace life.

Many: **Who invites us to seek justice, to share power, to live in
loving community.**

One: We gather to worship God whose grace and power sustain us.

All: **To God be all glory, honor and praise.**

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

Gift in Music

“Free”
Music Cooperative

Gungor, Feat. William Matthews

There's a world at war/ Caught in suffering
Silent casualties/ Oh, God, grant us peace

In these sleepless nights/ I can hardly breathe/ Despite brutality
I know that we'll be free/ I know that we'll be free

[Chorus]

Let the light keep a-shinin'/ Let it break into the darkness
All the love dares us to see/ We'll all be free

In these desperate times/ Love will hold us here
Love will join our hands/ Teach us to have no fear

So we lay our hate down/ To wash their feet
When we see our brother/ Oh, we'll all be free/ Yes, we'll all be free

We'll be free, free/ We'll all be free (3x)

We are free
Free, free
We'll all be free
We are free
Free, free
We'll all be free

Let the light keep a-shinin'/ Let it break into the darkness
All the love dares us to see/ We'll all be free

Children's Message

Fred Robinson

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

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. “Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?” He answered, “What’s written in God’s Law? How do you interpret it?” He said, “That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.” “Good answer!” said Jesus. “Do it and you’ll live.” Looking for a loophole, he asked, “And just how would you define ‘neighbor’?” Jesus answered by telling a story.

“There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man. “A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I’ll pay you on my way back.’ “What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?” “The one who treated him kindly,” the religion scholar responded. Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

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

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

The aftermath of non-violence is the creation of a beloved community; the aftermath of non-violence is redemption and reconciliation. This is a method that seeks to transform and redeem and win the friendship of the opponent, and make it possible for all to live together as brothers and sisters in community and not continuously live with bitterness and friction...

Love is creative and redemptive. Love builds up and unites. Hate tears down and destroys. The aftermath of the “fight fire with fire” method... is bitterness and chaos. The aftermath of the love method, is reconciliation and the creation of the beloved community. Physical force can repress, restrain, coerce, destroy, but it cannot create and organize anything permanent. Only love can do that. Yes love—which means understanding creative, redemptive goodwill even for one’s enemies—is the solution to the race problem.

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

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

Musical Response “We Shall Overcome”

ϕ **We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome one day,
O deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome one day.**

Contemporary Reading “Between the World and Me” Lloyd Spencer
Ta-nehisi Coates

“But all our phrasing—race relations, racial chasm, racial justice, racial profiling, white privilege, even white supremacy—serves to obscure that racism is a visceral experience, that it dislodges brains, blocks airways, rips muscle, extracts organs, cracks bones, breaks teeth. You must never look away from this. You must always remember that the sociology, the history, the economics, the graphs, the charts, the regressions all land, with great violence, upon the body.”

ϕ **We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome one day,
O deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome one day.**

Fannie Lou Hamer

The only thing I really feel is necessary is that the black people, not only in Mississippi, will have to actually upset this applecart. What I mean by that is: so many things are under the cover that will have to be swept out and shown to this whole world, not just to America. This thing they say of "the land of the free and the home of the brave" is all on paper. It doesn't really mean anything to us. The only way we can make this thing a reality in America is to do all we can to destroy this system and bring this out to the light that has been under the cover all these years.

φ **We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome one day,
O deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome one day.**

Reading "Letters from the Birmingham Jail" Jeff Edwards-Knight
Martin Luther King, Jr.

I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

φ **We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome one day,
O deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome one day.**

Reading "Martin & Malcolm & America: Terrance Hayes
A Dream or Nightmare" by James Cone

Martin King was right 'The hour is late' and 'the clock of destiny is ticking out.' We must declare where we stand on the great issues of our time. Racism is one of them. Poverty is another. Sexism another. Class exploitation another. Imperialism another. We must break the cycle of violence in America and around the world. Human beings are meant for life and not death. They are meant for freedom and not slavery. They were created for each other and not against each other. We must, therefore, break down the barriers that separate people from one another...

φ **We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome one day,
O deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome one day.**

Gift in Music "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by Thomas A. Dorsey
Felicia Robinson, vocals, David Gilliland, piano

Sermon "Rethinking King: Fred Robinson, Shea Watts
Where Do We Go from Here?"

Offertory Invitation Fred Robinson

Offertory Music David Gilliland

* Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

φ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above all heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Offertory Dedication Fred Robinson

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.

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.

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT AT BRCC

Keep our Holy Covenant and Southern Conference youth in prayer as they gather this weekend to grow in spirit and in knowledge!

JOIN OUR NEW MEMBER - INQUIRER'S CLASSES THIS JANUARY

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, please join our Inquirer's Classes!

9:30 am January 27 Who We Are / What We Believe

9:30 am February 3 UCC/Holy Covenant History

**12:30 pm February 10 Elders and Deacon Luncheon Ministry
Organizational Structure & Opportunities for Involvement**

We will be welcoming new members into membership at Holy Covenant in mid-February, date to be announced. Please contact Debbie Davis at Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com with questions or to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

OUR VERY OWN AUTHOR EVENT WITH TOMMY TOMLINSON! FEBRUARY 3

What better way to talk about losing weight than at a church potluck!?

Following worship on February 3, Tommy Tomlinson will talk about his new book *"The Elephant in the Room."* The book is about his lifelong struggle with his weight and how he has tried to find a path to a better, healthier self. He will have books available for sale (\$27, via cash or credit card) and will be happy to sign any books folks have already bought.

HCUCC YOGA4ALL, WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 pm

We'll meet on January 23; February 6, 13 & 23

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities....Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. Contact David, davidsmith02b@gmail.com or 704-533-2142.

BACKPACK MINISTRY/ UNCC STUDENT PANTRY

Schools are back into session. Contributions to the BackPack Ministry and the UNCC Student pantry are welcomed. Gently worn professional clothing is also welcomed by the UNCC pantry. Look for the collection basket in the Gathering Room.

TIME OUT YOUTH, FAMILY STYLE DINNER, JANUARY 24

T.O.Y. is a place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGTBQ) youth ages 11-20 can experience a sense of belonging & community. Please consider helping with this next meal planned for Thursday, January 24. All are welcomed! Contact Bob Saylor, bchs3201@aol.com.

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

Warm clothes, snacks, toiletries and diapers are being collected to give to migrants as they pass through Charlotte on the Greyhound bus route on their journey to pursuit asylum. A collection box is available in the Conference Room. See Suzanne Lamorey with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

SAVORING LIFE: PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE

A GREENFAITH DAY APART, FEBRUARY 2 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at HCUCC

Nature is a powerful and central spiritual resource in all faith traditions. Yet, today we struggle to care for and keep our earth safe for ourselves and future generations. Rev. Amy Brooks, GreenFaith, Organizer and Rev. Anne Findley-Chamberlain, Spiritual Director invite you to a day of retreat and reflection to connect with and nurture your passion for the environment, identify specific actions that make a difference, and create a community for continuing support and inspiration. There is no fee but space is limited. **RSVP to amy@greenfaith.org.**

HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN, FEBRUARY 10

HCUCC will host our yet to be housed neighbors to keep them warm, give them a place to shower, and feed them hot meals. Can you help with this ministry? Can you assist with Monday morning clean up? Perhaps you would simply like to join us for dinner and conversation? suzlam@yahoo.com

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

To help keep us organized, we use an electronic signup for volunteers called SignUpGenius. You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer.

<https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

NEW COAT RACK LOCATION

The coat rack has been moved to a more convenient location, just outside the Gathering Room in the hall to the church office. Please collect your coats, sweaters, scarves and umbrellas after worship! *Any remaining there after February 3rd will be donated to those in need!*

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS have been mailed through the US Postal Service for your use in 2018 taxes preparation. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Dawn in our church office. Your generosity in sharing your gifts in support of our ministries are helping to transform our community and beyond. Thank you!

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

Elder for January: Jeff Edwards Knight, 704-651-4838 or jeff763@aol.com

Deacons for January: Martha Bomely, Gregg Walker

Greeters: Sue Pascucci, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey, Jim Hong

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Joy Decker, JoAnn Jellison

Refreshments: Nishi & JP Griffin, Deb & Laurence Winston

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Deb & Yvette Ross in the death of Deb's sister, Chris
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jill
Gregg, Eileen Howe, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene
Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Jesiah, Devon & Parker (Marine Luckhoo); Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn
Capps, Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna
Collins), Jonathan Funderburk (Donna Collins), David Owens (Donna
Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Latasha Roberts, Ken & Evelyn Sell
(Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy
Simpson, Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn
Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor
Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor
Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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