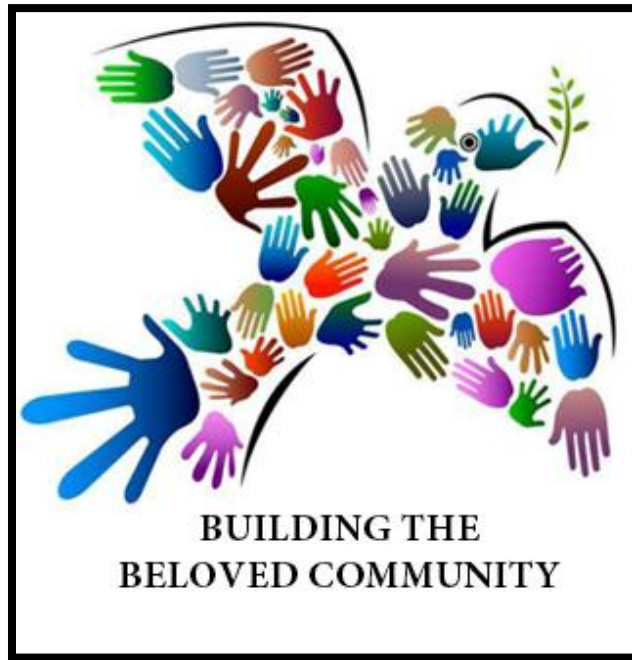


Holy Covenant

United Church of Christ



Silent Meditation

“Without community, there is no liberation.”

~ Audre Lorde

“If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want
to go far, go together.”

~ African Proverb

We have to come together and speak honestly about
what the barriers are within our community – and
then tear them down. It's really that simple.

~ Tarana Burke

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY- BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February 2, 2020, 10:55 AM

Please silence cell phones

Gathering Music

Jon Weddell

“Let Us Break Bread Together” *arr. John Carter*

“Let Us Break Bread” *arr. Paul Taylor*

Welcome and Announcements ☩

Fred Robinson

One: May the peace of the Christ Child be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

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

Sung Call to Worship

“Give Me a Clean Heart”

DOUROUX

☩ Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee.

Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.

For I’m not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart, and I’ll follow thee.

* Words of Preparation

Cheryl Milam

One: God of creative love;

Many: **We celebrate the love which liberates us through poetry and song, shapes and colors, designs and patterns.**

One: God of faithful love;

Many: **We celebrate the love of awesome forces and deep mysteries; the love expressed in prayers and hymns; scripture and sermons.**

One: God of adventurous love;

Many: **We celebrate the love that frees us to ask questions and explore, to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities.**

One: God of determined love;

Many: **We celebrate the love that helps us communicate with one another, express trust and respect, share heartaches and visions.**

...

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

One: God of reconciling love;

Many: We celebrate the love that conveys mercy and forgiveness; that inspires us to encourage those around us; the love that affirms and builds up, comforts and enlightens us.

All: God of all love, may we be your people in this place, offering your love to all we encounter.

* Passing of the Peace

Cheryl Milam

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.

* Hymn

"Come Live in Light/We Are Called"

David Haas

Come! Live in the Light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

To live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain: We are called to act with justice; We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So hatred and violence will be no more. *(Refrain)*

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love. *(Refrain)*

Children's Offering & Message

Fred Robinson

(Following the Children's Message, children below first grade may go to extended care or return to sit with their parents.)

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.’

‘With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Cheri Dennis

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:1-12

Cheri Dennis

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

“Building the Beloved Community”

Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation

Cheri Dennis

Offertory Music

Jon Weddell

* Offertory Dedication

Cheri Dennis

* Doxology

THANK YOU, LORD

☩ Thank you, Lord. (3x)

I just want to thank you, Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Communion

Fred Robinson

One: Let us give words to our feelings.

All: Spirit of the universe, our souls are in need of nourishment. Our inadequacies drain our spirit. Our frustrations drain our spirit. The hurts and the pains of our world drain our spirit. We need to be fed. With our spirits and our hearts wide open we move to the table. Nourish us with your life, with your love, for our sake and for the sake of all we touch. Amen.

Words of Institution

Fred Robinson

Prayer of Consecration

Cheri Dennis

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

Music during Communion

Jon Weddell

☩ NCH 330

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

SPIRITUAL

Let us break bread together on our knees. (2x)

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... (2x)

Let us praise God together on our knees... (2x)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Fred Robinson

We have been fed. Each of our spirits have been united by the bread and the cup. Let us feel the energy of wholeness no matter who we are or what our situation in life might be. We are nourished, we are loved, and we are grateful. Amen

* Hymn 570

“We Shall Overcome”

TRADITIONAL

1. We shall o-ver-come, we shall o-ver-come,
We shall o-ver-come some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall o-ver-come some day.
2. We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do be-lieve,
we'll go hand in hand some day.
3. We are not a-fraid, we are not a-fraid,
we are not a-fraid to-day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do be-lieve,
we are not a-fraid to-day.
4. Our God will see us through, our God will see us throuh,
our God will see us through some day;
Oh, deep in any heart, I do be-lieve
our God will see us through some day.
5. The truth shall make us free. . . some day.
6. We shall I live in peace. . . some day.

* Benediction

Fred Robinson

* Benediction Response

GLORY TO GOD

φ Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, who grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end, Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Postlude

Jon Weddell

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” *arr. John Carter*

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.

HCUCC'S MISSIONS & JUSTICE TEAM MEETING TODAY

We will gather in the conference room following worship, on Feb. 2, to discuss projects present and future. All are welcomed to join us as we continue our work as the hands and feet of Christ.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Did you know that **February 7** is the deadline for registering to vote (or for changing your address) for the primaries? Did you know that anyone can request an absentee ballot who desires one? The deadline for absentee ballot requests is February 25. We have all the forms you need at the Voter Registration table in the Gathering Room. Find out how you can join in registration events with other HC members. Contact Suzanne at suzlam@yahoo for more information.

WHAT IS A W.I.S.E. CONGREGATION?

A WISE congregation has joined the mission to being Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged in the Mental Health of the community and the wider world. **Please join the WISE team on Sunday, February 9 from 12:30-1:30 for a discussion of grief and loss.** Presenters Alix Felsing and Meg Houlihan will explore different types of grief, the variety of responses we may have and strategies for coping.



The WISE TEAM will meet TODAY, February 2 in the Sojourner's classroom across from the office following worship.

JACKETS IN JANUARY

We are collecting new/nearly new jackets for chilly children in neighborhood schools who are ages 5 to 10 years old. Please place your contributions in the Kids Box in the Gathering Room from now until the end of February. Contact Suzanne at suzlam@yahoo.com for more information.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners continue to discuss the Gospel of Mark in our Bible study. "Mark's bare-bones Gospel gets right to the point and tells us what mattered most to the earliest of Christians." Everyone is welcome to join us in the Conference Room at 9:45 to engage with the Bible and with each other.

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

We always welcome new readers to our meetings! We meet at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

12 February - *That Reminds Me* by Rev. H. Linn Finger

GETTING CLOSE TO FINALIZING OUR TRANSITION TEAM

Thank you for your prayers and for submitting names to help form our Transition Team. We are getting close to completing the process. The next steps? Those who received the most votes will be contacted by letter. Once the letter is received and nominees agree to serve, we will finalize the Team. We will then produce a brochure with the picture and biographical sketch of each Team member. After being prayed for and commissioned during a special service, they will begin their work. We continue to solicit your prayers as we move into these final stages.

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

Elder for February:

Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267

Deacons for February: JoAnn Jellison,

Greeters: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: JP Griffin, Jill Gregg, Laurence Winston, Barb Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Eileen Howe, JoAnn Jellison

Refreshments: Renee Brown, Kelly Gimlin

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Deb & Yvette Ross, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

Andrew Bomely (Martha Bomely), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Faye Grumbles (Linda Clark), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Charlie Jongeling (Darline Warren), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor

Mr. Jon Weddell, Accompanist

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holy covenantucc.org office@holy covenantucc.org 704-599-9810