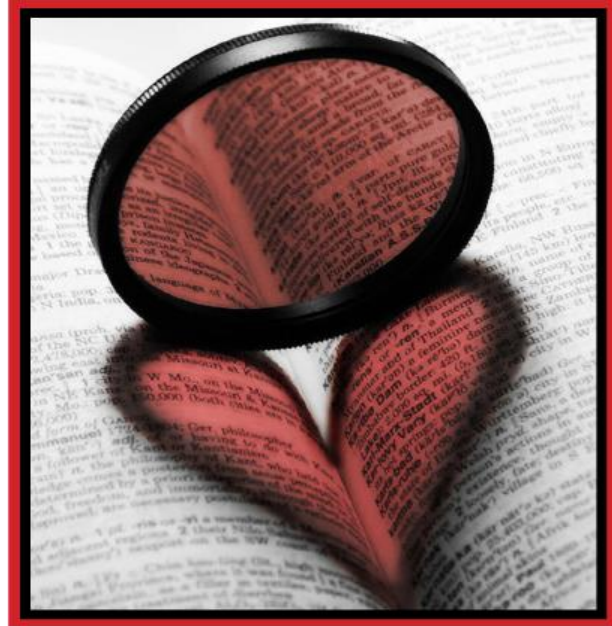


# Holy Covenant

## United Church of Christ



### Silent Meditation

“Scripture can only be understood through the lens of love both of God and of neighbor and community. Therefore, anyone who thinks they have understood some part of Scripture but does not use this understanding to build up love of God and neighbor, has not actually understood that Scripture. All interpretation of Scripture must begin and end with love.” - Jennifer Strawbridge

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” - John 13:35

“To love someone means to see them as God intended them.” - Fyodor Dostoyevsky

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

February 16, 2020, 10:55 AM

*Please silence cell phones*

Gathering Music

Jon Weddell

“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” *arr. John Carter*

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

ϕ **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

Eileen Howe

One: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the whole world.

**Many: We are the salt of the earth.**

One: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life so that all can flourish

**Many: We are the light of the world.**

One: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

**Many: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.**

One: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the hands, heart and feet of God.

**Many: Come, let us love one another with the love of God.**

**All: Let us join together in our love of God to follow the heart and teachings of Jesus.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Eileen Howe

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    ϕ Sing Response    ✕ Hymnals located below pews*

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, (*in my heart*), in my heart (*in my heart*).  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving...

Lord, I want to be more holy...

Lord, I want to be like Jesus...

Children’s Offering & Message

Cheri Dennis

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

Special Music

“What the World Needs Now”

*Burt Bacharach*

Contemporary Reading “Touched by an Angel”

Kristin Andes

*by Maya Angelou*

We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love which sets us free.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Psalm 119:1-8

Ed Vickery

Happy are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD.  
Happy are those who keep his decrees,  
who seek him with their whole heart,  
who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways.  
You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.  
O that my ways may be steadfast  
in keeping your statutes!  
Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.  
I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous ordinances.  
I will observe your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.  
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

Fred Robinson

Prayer Response "Know That God Is Good"  
*(Democratic Republic of Congo)*

MUNGU NI MWEMA

☩ **Know that God is good. (3x)**  
**God is good; God is good.**

**Halle, hallelujah. (3x)**  
**Hallelujah; hallelujah.**

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

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



## 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.

### INTRODUCING THE TRANSITION TEAM

After much work and deliberation we are delighted to announce those who have accepted the invitation to the Transition Team: Kristin Andes, JoAnn Jellison, Phil Kaveler, Jeff Edwards-Knight, Dawn Schmitz, Micki Spear, Lloyd Spencer, Selma Taylor, and Deborah Winston. We have assembled a wonderful, diverse and energetic group of leaders who are eager and ready to serve. Thank you to each of you for your commitment to Holy Covenant UCC.

### ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 26; SUPPER, 5:30, WORSHIP, 7:00 PM

**Supper:** The Hospitality Committee will provide several kinds of soup, salad, bread and beverages. We need YOU to provide dessert - cookies or bars. Come straight from work, enjoy the food, then attend the service. Families and children are welcome. Child care can be provided with an advance request. Contact the office.

**Worship:** Through music, readings and prayers, Ash Wednesday provides an opportunity for reflection and commitment in shaping your Lenten disciplines. Join us for this meaningful and moving experience.

### SAFETY TEAM MEETING, MARCH 1

We will meet in the Sanctuary after worship. [JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com](mailto:JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com)

### TAKE ME OUT THE THE BALLGAME! MAY 3

The Pawtucket Red Sox play the Knights in Charlotte on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in a day game. Our big Red Sox fans, Martha Bomely and Lisa Sherman will be coordinating this outing. If we have enough sign up, Group Tickets should be between \$20-23. Sign up in the gathering room by March 1st or email [Martha.Bomely@gmail.com](mailto:Martha.Bomely@gmail.com).

## **NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES IN MARCH**

We are gathering a class for those who are exploring membership at Holy Covenant UCC. There will be three classes; **March 8, 15, 22**, and then a reception of new members on March 29. Contact Jo Ann Jellison, [JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com](mailto:JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com), or speak with Cheri Dennis, [CheriD@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:CheriD@holycovenantucc.org), or Rev. Fred Robinson, [Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org) if interested.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**

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](mailto:suzlam@yahoo) for more information.

## **ROOM IN THE INN, \*MARCH 22\* NEW DATE**

Thanks to all who have generously supported this ministry! February's gathering included a young family of 3 including a delightful 12 month old, a mom and young daughter pair, and 3 older women who are all hoping for a more permanent home. Please consider joining us for our meal next time and to join us in providing a welcome for these folks. HCUCC will host our final RITI for this season **March 22**, for 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? Check the signup sheets in the Gathering Room...there are many ways you can help to welcome our neighbors in need! Contact Suzanne Lamorey, coordinator at [SuzLam@yahoo.com](mailto:SuzLam@yahoo.com).

## **JACKETS IN JANUARY**

We continue 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](mailto: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.

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

Elder for February: Suzanne Lamorey, [suzlam@yahoo.com](mailto:suzlam@yahoo.com) or 704-654-7267

Deacons for February: JoAnn Jellison, Kathy Habel

Greeters: Eileen Howe, Von McQueen-Simmons

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Chris Edwards, Suzanne Lamorey, Kelly Gimlin

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan-Young

Refreshments: the Decker family

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Kevin Decker, Tina Dickens, 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**

Philip, Joseph & Sara Rapp in the death of their mother, Patty Young (John Rapp); Andrew Bomely (Martha Bomely), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), 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      [fredrick@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:fredrick@holycovenantucc.org)

Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Associate Pastor      [cherid@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:cherid@holycovenantucc.org)

Mr. Jon Weddell, Accompanist      [jdw08629@gmail.com](mailto:jdw08629@gmail.com)

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant      [office@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:office@holycovenantucc.org)

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