

Holy Covenant

United Church of Christ



Silent Meditation

“At some point, we too need to climb a mountain, rise above our violence, see the world from the peace of a mountaintop view, and listen for the still, quiet voice of God. We too need to hear God speak and send us on our mission back into the world.”

~ John Dear

“So what are we celebrating? The inscrutable mystery of God. The wonder of a God so transcendent that even our most precise descriptions are metaphor. We celebrate the majesty and glory of God...and the hope that a glimpse of God might be shown to us.”

~ David Mauldin

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 23, 2020, 10:55 AM

Please silence cell phones

Gathering Music “Siyahamba/Thuma Mina: Jon Weddell
A Marriage of Africa and American Jazz”
arr. M Sedio

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)*

Opening Voluntary “Lord, Light a Flame in My Heart” *M Beall & J Carter*

Expression of Faith
“I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free”
Melissa McQueen-Simmons
Nina Simone, Vocalist from Silk & Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inNBpizpZkE>

* Words of Preparation Dawn Schmitz
One: Transfigured by light, Jesus was changed.
Many: **Come, praise the Lord our God, and worship at God's
mountain.**
One: For the Lord our God is holy, full of compassion and grace.
Many: **When God's prophets cried out, God answered them, speaking
in a pillar of cloud.**
One: Let all God's people sing praises to God's great and awesome
name.
Many: **Mighty God, lover of justice, you establish equity throughout
the earth.**
One: Let us worship God from the mountaintops.
All: **Let us praise God's holy name. Let us climb to be changed.**

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

* Passing of the Peace

Dawn Schmitz

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 497

"Guide My Feet"

SPIRITUAL

1. Guide my feet while I run this race, (3x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.
2. Hold my hand while I run this race, (3x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.
3. I'm your child while I run this race, (3x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.
4. Stand by me while I run this race, (3x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

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.)

Anthem

"Wade in the Water"
arr. Donald Moore

Chancel Choir

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Choral Prayer for Africa: "N'kosi Sikelel'i Afrika"

arr. Nick Page

(sung in Zulu and Lesotho)

English translation:

God bless Africa, Let her glory be held up high.

Please listen to our prayers, God bless we her children.

Holy Spirit, please come down, God bless we her children.

God protect our nation. Please bring an end to wars and suffering.

Protect us, Protect our nation, Africa.

Historical Note:

Enoch Mankayi Sontonga (1860-1904), a Christian singer and song writer, wrote “N’kosi Sikelel’ I Afrika” in 1897. Sontonga was born in Lovedale, Cape Province. Although he left formal schooling at an early age, he was gifted in music, and wrote many songs and hymns that were popular throughout South Africa. First performed in 1899, “N’kosi Sikelel’ I Afrika” rapidly spread throughout churches and schools in Southern Africa, partly as a result of being sung in concerts by the Ohlange Zulu Choir, and was later adopted by the African National Congress and other organizations as a national anthem. The beginning is Sontonga’s original hymn, and is in Zulu. From “Morena Boloka” to “Sechaba sa Afrika” was added later by National poet SEK Mqhayi (1875-1945), originally in the Xhosa language. This version is in the Lesotho language. There are many versions of this great anthem. It is sung in many languages and dialects and with other stylistic and melodic differences throughout Africa, as well as with a variety of lyrics.

Despite being banned by the South African government, the song was sung at meetings, rallies, funerals and other public gatherings. It is an anthem of enormous power and pride.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 26

SUPPER, 5:30-6:30, WORSHIP, 7:00 PM

Supper: The Hospitality Committee will provide several kinds of soup, salad, bread and beverages. We'll serve between 5:30-6, so come as you are able. 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.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE IN GATHERING ROOM

From the writers of the popular UCC online **Daily Devotional**, *Deliver Us* includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day. Copies are limited to one per family please. Devotional will be posted to the **Holy Covenant UCC Facebook page** daily.

The existential and everyday threats we face are daunting. With faithful people across the ages, we cry out to God for deliverance ... not only pleading for God to act, but seeking the courage to let God act through us. We can take such a risk ... or we can play it safe. The Lenten season is a time for each of us to explore the ways in which we promote (or prevent) the deliverance we so desperately seek.

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. We will receive new members during worship on March 29. Contact Jo Ann Jellison, JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com.

SAFETY TEAM MEETING, MARCH 1

We will meet in the Sanctuary after worship. JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com

TAKE ME OUT THE THE BALLGAME! MAY 3

The Pawtucket Red Sox play the Knights in Charlotte on May 3rd 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. Today concludes the sign ups in the gathering room.

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COMMUNICATIONS TEAM RALLY, MARCH 15 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Holy Covenant is in need of dynamic and diverse Communications Team and you are invited to help us imagine new possibilities! Let's meet after worship on March 15th in the Sojourner's Classroom (across from the office) to get the ball rolling. This will be a multi-faceted CommTeam and we'll need lots of creative, artistic, and tech savvy people to help. Hope to see you there! Dawn Simmons, coordinator, office@holycovenantucc.org.

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.

INVITATION TO ORDINATION OF CHERI DENNIS, MARCH 29

Please join us in celebration to the ordination of Cheri Dennis, *Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 3 PM* at Holy Covenant UCC. All clergy are invited to attend, robe, and wear red stoles.

JACKETS IN JANUARY

A very "warm" thank you to all those who contributed jackets to the David Cox Elementary School children. This month we delivered 14 jackets plus a shopping cart almost overflowing with backpack food items to our neighborhood school.

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, Kathy Habel

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Deb Winston

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Eileen Howe, Mike Taylor, Selma Taylor

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments:

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

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

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

Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Associate Pastor cherid@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Jon Weddell, Accompanist jdw08629@gmail.com

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant office@holycovenantucc.org

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