



Pentecost by Melissa Noll

Silent Meditation

Kill me with George Floyd

By Jason Rodenbeck

murdered in public by
the powers' enforcers over
vague accusations before
a group of bystanders, some
begging for mercy, he gasped
"I can't breathe."

and then he died.
what terrible crime must he
have done to be worthy of such
treatment? would it have even
mattered?

murdered in public by
the powers' enforcers over
vague accusations before
mobs of bystanders, some
begging for mercy, he gasped
"I'm thirsty."

and, when he had
asked forgiveness for them,
then he died. alone.

what terrible crime had he done?
nothing more than loving George
Floyd. and on his cross he gasped
with George on the pavement.

it didn't even matter that
he was innocent.

I suppose it's easy at 3 AM from the
quiet safety of my dining room to
say "I'd rather die with George Floyd
than suffer another to die alone."

I'm sure it will be much harder to
speak when it happens in front of me,
and I am tempted to retreat to the
quiet safety of my whiteness.

but I hope in my heart that,
if that time comes I will
have the courage say to those officers
"if you really must kill someone,
kill me with George Floyd."

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PENTECOST

May 31, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”
arr. Mark Hayes and Janet Vogt

MORECAMBE

Welcome and Announcements
and Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

One: May the Spirit of the Living Christ be with you all!

Many: **And also with you.**

Reading from Toni Morrison’s “Beloved”

Melissa McQueen Simmons

* Call to Worship

Cheri Dennis

One: Holy Breath, Wind, Flame, Spirit: You have come like a mighty rushing wind, bringing good news for those who are beaten down by the trials of life and systems of oppression.

All: This is the morning of commencement and the day of new beginnings!

One: Set our hearts on fire for a time such as this. Burn off all that is dry and lifeless and grow us anew.

All: We are nothing without you. Send forth your presence and grant us your power.

One: Let your Spirit dance within our spirits, uprooting us when we have been unmoved and refreshing all that is stale in our lives.

All: We are nothing without you. Empower us to renew the face of the earth.

One: Reign down your Spirit upon us that we, too, may prophesy!

All: We are nothing without you. Carry us forward on our journey of faith.

One: Reign down your Spirit upon us that we, too, may see visions!

All: We are nothing without you. Burn your truth into our hearts.

One: Reign down your Spirit upon us that we, too, may dream dreams. Dreams of freedom. Dreams of justice. Dreams of love!

All: This is the day of new beginnings. Praise God. Amen.

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning;
Giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
Came to rescue me from danger,
Blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
Wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for your very own.

Song of Response “Malo! Malo! Thanks Be to God” Jesse Manibusan
(This is a call and response song giving thanks in many languages.
Jon and Lisa will sing first, then respond with bold phonetic spelling.)

Refrain:

<i>Tongan:</i>	Malo! Malo! Thanks be to God! Mah-loh! Mah-loh! Thanks be to God!
<i>Portuguese:</i>	Obrigado! Alleluia! O-bree-ga-doh! Alleluia!
<i>Spanish/Korean:</i>	Gracias! Kam sa ham ni da! Grah-seeahs! Kahm sah hahm nee dah!
<i>Tongan:</i>	Malo! Malo! Thanks be to God! Mah-loh! Mah-loh! Thanks be to God!

Verse 1:

<i>Chamoru:</i>	Si Yu’us maa’sel	See joos mah-ah-sih!
<i>Indonesian:</i>	Terima kasih!	Three-mah kah-seeh!
<i>Tagalog:</i>	Maraming salamat!	Mah-rah-meeng sah-lah-maht!
<i>German:</i>	Danke schön!	Dahn-kuh shuh(r)n!
<i>Polish:</i>	Dziękuję! We thank you, Lord!	Jehn-koo-yeh! We thank you, Lord! (Refrain)

Verse 2:

<i>Creole:</i>	Mési bokou!	Meh-see boh-koo!
<i>Mandarin:</i>	Xie xie!	Shee-eh shee-eh!
<i>Japanese:</i>	Arigatō!	Ah-ree-gah-toh!
<i>Italian:</i>	Grazie!	Grah-tsee-eh!
<i>Vietnamese:</i>	Cám ơn! We thank you, Lord!	Gahm urn! We thank you, Lord! (Refrain)

Children’s Message

Cheri Dennis

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Praise the Lord!

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

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

* Scripture Acts of the Apostles 2:1-18 (paraphrase) Cheri Dennis

When the day of Pentecost, the feast of the Giving of the Law, had come, the disciples, and the women and others who followed Jesus from the beginning, were all together in the upper room. And suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty, driving wind that filled the house where they were sitting. And the light of God, which shines in the darkness, rested upon the head of each one of them, as it were a flame, a tongue of fire, like that which burned in a bush on Sinai and consumed it not.

And they were, every one of them, were filled with the Holy Spirit which empowered them to hear the word of the Lord, and to preach it. Each one then declared the message by the power of the Holy Spirit so that everyone, from those near and far, could understand all that was said as the disciples preached about the wonderful works of god. All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them saying this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon those who are enslaved, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall all prophesy.

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

“Pentecost: The Fire This Time”

Fred Robinson

* Hymn 391

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

NEW DIMENSIONS

In the midst of new dimensions
In the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
Wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar
Leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people,
Warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? (*refrain*)

As we stand a world divided
By our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village,
Might envision wider dreams. (*refrain*)

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Postlude

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

UPDATE ON CHURCH CONTINUING VIRTUAL WORSHIP

May 22, 2020

Dear Holy Covenant Family,

Since suspending in-gathering worship services on March 15 to prevent the spread of COVID-19, a few things have transpired. On April 23, Gov. Roy Cooper announced a three-phased approach to gradually lift Coronavirus restrictions. Today at 5 pm, Phase 2 starts and while it still limits gatherings of more than 10 persons, a federal judge recently ruled that churches in North Carolina can meet under fewer restrictions. We pray for houses of faith that choose this route, as some have, but we've decided to *lovingly* exercise caution and continue worshipping virtually.

As eager as we are to get back into the sanctuary where we can see each other and worship together, COVID-19 remains a serious threat and we need to do everything possible to slow its spread. The love of God is best expressed through the love of neighbor and physical distancing during these unprecedented times is the best expression of that love.

Our decision about when to reopen may not coincide with the interests of our government but it will be based on the leading of the Spirit and on what's best for our community. In the words of the songwriter Hezekiah Walker, "We love you and we need you to survive." We will continue to prayerfully monitor developments and keep you informed.

Fred Robinson
Interim Pastor

Join us live Sundays in worship at 10:55am
<http://holycovenantucc.org/virtual-hc/>

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

Elder for May: Tom Magraw, tmagraw@aol.com or 704-614-5405

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith

TRANSITION TEAM

Periods of transition are extremely significant in the life of the church. They offer both a unique opportunity for renewal and a time to reflect on the future of the church in meaningful ways. *Input from all will be critical during this process.* Please look for messages from the Transition Team inviting you to participate through brief questionnaires (10 questions or less), Zoom meetings, and other activities.

READERS AND MUSICIANS WANTED!

If you'd like to share your talents remotely, Brian Hankins' has created a great tutorial to help us along! <https://vimeo.com/416712217>

For the best experience, get the Vimeo app:

Android - https://bit.ly/vimeo_android

iOS - https://bit.ly/vimeo_ios

Interested readers should contact Laura Hankins, laura@hankins-clt.us; interested musicians should contact Kathi Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

EXCITING STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

All are invited to join this weekly Zoom Bible Study class on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm. The link to the class is

<https://zoom.us/j/488584017?pwd=TE5YK2dub293ckhiYUh5TDZmRTRndz09>

Password: 580673

Lead by Pastor Fred Robinson, Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - VIA ZOOM

NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sojourners Class is coming to the end of our study of the Gospel of Mark. This Sunday (May 31st) we'll be looking at the final chapter of Mark, chapter 16. Please join us at 9:45 via Zoom. On June 7th, we'll be starting a new study follow the book *The Will of God* by Leslie Weatherhead. It's available on Amazon and Kindle. You are not required to have read the book before joining us. New members are always welcome. Here is the link to the Zoom class:

<https://zoom.us/j/794891873>. If you'd like a copy of the Bible Study lessons, please email, text, or call Cheri Dennis, cherid@holycovenantucc.org or 704-519-6016.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

If any Holy Covenant families or friends are interested in receiving supplemental materials and activities for children, please contact Laura Allison at Education@holycovenantucc.org.



HOLY COVENANT'S RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY TEAM ENCOURAGES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING SERIES SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE:



WHITE PRIVILEGE
let's talk

MAY 13TH - JUNE 24TH
1:00 - 3:00 PM OR 6:00 - 8:00 PM

White Privilege: Let's Talk -- A resource for Transformational Dialogue is an adult curriculum from the UCC that's designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race.

Each cohort will meet weekly for the next 7 weeks. Both clergy and lay individuals are encouraged to participate. Registration is required!

Offered by Rev. LaShauna Austria
Southern Conference Minister for Racial Equality and Justice

To prepare for our first gathering, please read and answer questions for [Part I \(pages 1-29\) of the White Privilege Curriculum](#).

The sessions will be offered at two different times, please register for the one that best fits your schedule. Registration is required!

[Register for May 13th from 1:00 - 3:00 PM](#)

[Register for May 13th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM](#)

White Privilege: Let's Talk / A Resource for Transformational Dialogue [can also be downloaded \(free\) as a pdf document from UCC Resources.](#)



With gratitude for the many ways in which you support ministry!

Mailed checks should be sent securely to:

Holy Covenant UCC
PO Box 481285
Charlotte, NC 28269

Try our new app in the My Church App. Download it here!

<http://customchurchapps.com/my-church-app/>



Find the GIVE button at the bottom of the home page, that will allow you to make a one time, or recurring contribution of any amount, and designate where your funds are to be used.

Or - Make your offering online through our website:

holycovenantucc.org/give/

New giving options! When you make your offering on the church website, the transaction via Wallet/Subsplash will allow you the option to cover the fee. We still accept donations via PayPal, however they do not offer that option to pay the transaction fee at this time.

THANK YOU! Your support helps build our stories about how we are living out God's love and expressing love of neighbor, children and creation, our 3 Great Loves.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

Your WISE Team continues to locate helpful resources to get us through challenging times. [Click here](#), or see the weekly newsletter, for a full list including links for information on Addressing Stress and Mental Health Concerns; meditations, help with older adults, supporting kids, and making connections with others.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Lisa and Jim Sherman in the death of Lisa's father, Dudley Hall
Kim Buch, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelsen, Rick & Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Dawn Robinson, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Yvette Stewart Ross, Mamie Stokes, Shakti Subramanian, Deb Winston

Friends & Family Members

The family and friends of Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd)
David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Grady & Pat Judd (William Judd), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Mike Reynard & Linda Matkins (Robert Shepherd), Eileen Perry (Ed & Beth Sharp), Darrell & Jackie Reichert (Diane Neese), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor
fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

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

Mr. Jon Weddell, M. Div., Minister of Music
jdw08629@gmail.com

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

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810