



Silent Meditation

“People get used to anything. The less you think about your oppression, the more your tolerance for it grows. After a while, people just think oppression is the normal state of things. But to become free, you have to be acutely aware of being [oppressed].”

~Assata Shakur

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

May 26, 2019

Prelude & Chiming of the Bells

Kathleen Smith

Welcome and Announcements

Fred Robinson

One: The Easter joy of the living Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

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

Opening Voluntary

Kathleen Smith

* Call to Worship

Shakti Subramanian

One: We are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Many: If one member suffers, all suffer its pain. If one member is honored, all share its joy.

One: We gather as a community of love to bring ourselves and others

Many: to Jesus the Great Physician whose gift is wholeness.

One: We ask for God's blessing in body, mind and spirit.

Many: We open ourselves to the healing ministry of God through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

* Passing of the Peace

Shakti Subramanian

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*

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God’s goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where’re we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

* Hymn

“Great Are You Lord”
Music Cooperative

Leonard, Ingram & Jordan

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

Chorus: It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord (*Chorus 2x*)

Bridge: And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord (*repeat*)

(*Chorus 1x*)
Great are you, Lord

Children's Message

Shea Watts

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

Epistle Lesson

Revelation 22:1-5

Lisa Sherman

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

Many: **Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Special Music

“Sails”

*Cook, Smith, Bashta, Barrett & Gretzinger
Shea Watts, Felicia Robinson*

* Gospel Lesson

John 5:1-9

Ed Vickery

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath.

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

Many: **Alleluia! Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Sermon

“Still I Rise”

Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation

Ed Vickery

Offering Music

Kathleen Smith

* Response of Thanksgiving

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

- ☩ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Offertory Dedication

Ed Vickery

* Hymn 553

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

BALM IN GILEAD

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. *Refrain:*

Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Jesus is your friend,
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will never fail to lend. *Refrain:*

If you cannot preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Je-sus, who died to save us all. *Refrain:*

* Benediction

Fred Robinson

* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

- ☩ Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

Postlude

Kathleen Smith

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

PLEASE SIGN OUR ATTENDANCE REGISTER

WELCOME to all who worship today at Holy Covenant! Guests and members, please sign an attendance register and then pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC AT LAKE NORMAN, FOLLOWING WORSHIP, JUNE 2

Let's begin summer with a celebration! Renee Brown and Kelly Gimlin have invited us to their home on Lake Norman (21425 Norman Shores Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031) for our all church picnic this year!

Jim Dwiggins is making his famous BBQ, the Hospitality team will bring coleslaw and baked beans and we are each asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, along with a blanket or chairs. Swimming and other water activities will happen - bring a suit and towel, a life jacket or floats for the kids. Parking logistics to be announced.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, June 2, the Sojourners will continue discussing *This Is How It Always Is*, pp. 51-96, by Laurie Frankel. All are welcome to join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room, no preparation necessary.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

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

9:30 am June 9 Who We Are / What We Believe

9:30 am June 16 UCC/Holy Covenant History

9:30 am June 30 Elders and Deacons Breakfast Ministry Organizational Structure & Opportunities for Involvement

We know it's a busy time with summer vacations, so to help us ensure this timing will work with your schedules, please email JoAnn Jellison at JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

WEAR RED, YELLOW OR ORANGE IN CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST, JUNE 9

TIME OUT YOUTH FAMILY STYLE MEAL, THURSDAY, JUNE 20

We are serving a family style dinner at the Time Out Youth Center Thursday evening, June 20th. There is a need for donations (food or funds), and for several volunteers for preparations, serving the meal & interaction with youth for about 1-1.5 hrs. TOY is a center that supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, & questioning Youth in promoting unconditional acceptance & creating space for self-expression. Your support greatly appreciated! Contact Bob Saylor, bchs3201@aol.com or 704-239-7342 Love Wins...

PRACTICING MIDRASH, WEDNESDAYS

Practicing Midrash meets Wednesdays from noon to 1PM at Holy Covenant.

HCUCC YOGA4ALL, TAKES A BREAK

With busy schedules of our main Yogi, and participants alike, we've decided to take a break until after Labor Day. WE are grateful for David A. Smith's leadership who reminds us all "...to find ways to do yoga, or something like it, at least once a week this summer." Namaste!

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

The Charlotte Greyhound Migrant Assistance Project has coordinated greeters for the buses in order to provide much needed travel essentials for the Central American Migrants. Smaller adult size and all children's sizes of socks and underwear, juice boxes and water, toiletries and diapers. A collection box is available in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, Suzlam@yahoo.com, with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

BOOK CLUB

Join us June 12th, the selected reading is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, discussion leader is Barbara Schneller. We gather at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 AM, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte.

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>

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

Elder for May: Robert Shepherd, rshepvided@att.net or 704-618-1322

Deacons for May: Jim Hong, Gregg Walker

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Mike Sladek, Eileen Howe

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Terrance Hayes

Refreshments: Southside Covenant Group

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Karen Courts and Mary Misciagna in the death of Karen's father.

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Mamie Stokes, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), David Owens (Donna Collins), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Chris Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor	pastor@holycovenantucc.org
Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor	fredrick@holycovenantucc.org
Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries	music@holycovenantucc.org
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant	office@holycovenantucc.org
Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accompanist	kathleenie53@msn.com

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