



Silent Meditation

“God wants to save us as a people. [God] does not want to save us in isolation. And so today's church more than ever is accentuating the idea of being a people. . . .What is a people? A people is a community of persons where all cooperate for the common good.”

~Oscar A. Romero

“It seems to me that in joining a church you leave home and home town to join a larger world. The whole world is your new neighborhood and all who dwell therein—black, white, yellow, red, stuffed and starving, mighty and lowly. . . . By joining a church you declare your individuality in the most radical way in order to affirm community on the widest possible scale.”

~William Sloane Coffin

* Hymn

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away:
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human-race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong:
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters,
Here we receive the bread of new birth:
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink, the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you:
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven light-years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is God present, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own,
Gather us in, all peoples together -
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

Special Music "Hector the Hero" Harp Ensemble
J.S. Skinner, arr. Blackwell-Plank

Prayers of the People Fred Robinson

* Gospel Lesson John 4:1-14 Lisa Cloninger

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, 'Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John'— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

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 "The Radical Subversive Love of Christ" Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation Lisa Cloninger

Offering Music

“Shepherd Medley”
arr. Bemiss

Harp Ensemble

* Doxology

ELLACOMBE

ϕ **As saints of old their first-fruits brought of orchard, flock and field,
To God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
So we today first-fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
Of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
To serve Your cause and share Your love with all along life’s way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ Your Son,
Teach us to give ourselves each day until life’s work is done.**

* Offertory Dedication

Lisa Cloninger

The Reception of New Members

Questions of the Candidates

Response of the Congregation

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

* Many: **We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life’s joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God’s sustaining presence as we journey forward together.**

Greeting of Christian Love

Hosts: *On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome.*

Song of Celebration

HALLELUJAH

φ Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah, Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah;
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

* Benediction

Fred Robinson

* Benediction Response

NEW DIMENSIONS

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

Postlude

“All Night, All Day”
arr. Blackwell-Plank

Harp Ensemble

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR HARP ENSEMBLE

We are grateful to Kristin Andes for coordinating today's beautiful gift of music. We thank the harpists from the Charlotte Chapter of the American Harp Society for sharing their gifts: Kathleen Blackwell-Plank, Jane Cooper, Dani Garrett, Janet Hince, and Kristin Andes; and violinist Karl Plank.

A NOTE ABOUT THE MUSIC

Hector the Hero was written in 1903 by Scottish fiddler and composer J.S. Skinner. Hector "Fighting Mac" MacDonald, the son of a Highlands crofter, enlisted in the British imperial army and, due to great bravery and a keen mind for strategy, rose through the ranks to Major General. He became an aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria and was knighted in 1901. Resented by many officers from the upper socio-economic classes, he was accused of homosexuality while commanding the British army in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). MacDonald suicided while being transported for court martial on the charges. A hero to the people of Scotland, 30,000 people attended his funeral.

**ATTENTION SINGERS! ADVENT REHEARSAL TODAY, 12:30- 2PM
PICK UP CHOIR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17; JOIN US FOR MORNING
REHEARSAL AT 10AM.**

ANNUAL MEETING & SOUP & PIES, NOVEMBER 17

Our 2019 Annual Meeting is our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with the entire congregation. To conduct the business of the church we need a quorum - and that means we need our members present! If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please ...

contact Consistory President Cheryl Milam, docmilam@hotmail.com or 980-521-0848. Hospitality is providing soup, bread and beverages. Please bring a salad or pies to share.

CONSISTORY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM

The Consistory recommends the following candidates for the Settled Pastoral Search Committee: Kristin Andes, Renee Brown, Jeff Edwards-Knight, Steve Garvey, Justine Hughes, Melissa McQueen-Simmons, Cheryl Milam, Samantha Sears, and Kathi Smith. This slate of candidates will be presented at the Annual Meeting for a vote; nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

WILL YOU WALK WITH US ON THE WAY?

If you have not yet made a 2020 commitment, please do so today! Our proposed spending plan for 2020 will be presented at our annual meeting on November 17 for congregational discussion and vote. Place your commitment card in the offering plate or email it to office@holycovenantucc.org.

BOOK CLUB, NOVEMBER 13

We will gather at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 am. This month's selection will be Alan Mulak's novel *Reboot*, and Alan will be at our meeting to lead the discussion, which promises to be great fun!

Our schedule for the next two meetings is:

11 December *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck discussion leader Sue Pascucci

15 January *Chances Are* by Richard Russo discussion leader Mary Ann Miklos

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR ALL CHURCH WORK DAY!

TIME OUT YOUTH MEAL, NOVEMBER 14

We are serving a family style dinner at the Time Out Youth Center Thursday evening, November 14th. 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. Your support is greatly appreciated! Contact Bob Saylor, 704-239-7342 or bchs3201@aol.com

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners continue their Bible study with a discussion of Exodus using a guide from the UCC resources. It's part of a series entitled *LISTEN UP! Bible Study*, which is not simply learning information about the Bible. It is hearing God speak. We will be encouraged to listen to the Bible, listen to our own questions and responses, and listen to the honest sharing among those present. We pray that God's word may be heard, speaking words of challenge and words of comfort. Everyone is invited! Hope to see you there Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room.

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 November: Tom Magraw, tmagraw@aol.com or 704-614-5405

Deacons for November: Cheryl Milam, Cheri Dennis

Greeters: Donna Collins, Laura Hankins

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Lorraine Edwards, Jim Hong, Bob Saylor

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Micki Spear, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: JoAnn Jellison

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Bruce & Melissa Noll, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Deb & Yvette Ross, Beth Sharp, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Jennifer Edenfield (Donna Collins), Alma Gordon (Kevin & Joy Decker), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Faye Grumbles (Linda Clark), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Rev. Jeanette Salley (JoAnn Jellison), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Deborah Selma (Kathleen Wagner), Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), John Teague (Donna Collins), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), 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
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant	office@holycovenantucc.org
Mr. Jon Weddell, Accompanist	jdw08629@gmail.com

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