



## Silent Meditation

As for Jesus, so for us. Our first calling, the baptismal call, is the one that simply loves and names: *You are my child, I delight in you.* The words embrace us and promise to hold us. This is where it begins, and this is also, we dare claim, the last word, the one that holds our future.

~John Stendahl

*Authentic leaders in every setting—  
from families to nation states—  
aim at liberating the heart,  
their own and others,  
so that its power can liberate the world.  
Consciousness precedes Being.  
The salvation of the world lies nowhere else  
but in the human heart.*

~ Vaclav Havel

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FOUNDERS SUNDAY & ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION  
BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

January 12, 2020, 10:55 AM

*Please silence cell phones*

Gathering Music      “Be Thou My Vision” *arr. Ben Logan*      Jon Weddell  
   “Holy, Holy, Holy” *arr. Mark Hayes*

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      “Holy Ground” *Beatty/Davis*      Jon Weddell

☩ **This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground.  
For our God is present and where God is is holy. (2x)**

**We are standing on holy ground,  
And I know that there are angels all around.  
Let us praise Jesus now.  
We are standing in God's presence on holy ground.**

\* Call to Worship      Terry Raley-Dennis

One: We gather from East and West, from North and South. God is calling us. Listen, for God is naming each of us.

Many: **The voice of God whispers in our hearts. The voice of God thunders through our midst.**

One: We come before the Living One who created us; The God who knows us completely, and loves us fully.

Many: **God reaches out to bless us, not condemn us. God brings us through terror to a place of peace.**

One: We pray for the courage to do what is right. We seek God's strength to witness for truth and grace.

\* *All rise, in body or spirit*    ☩ *Sing Response*    ✠ *Hymnals located below pews*

**Many:** Our courage comes in our blessing from God: “You are my child, I delight in you.”

**One:** We celebrate the presence of God’s descending Sprit in our lives.

**All:** We worship God-with-us in awe, wonder and joy!

\* Passing of the Peace

Terry Raley-Dennis

**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

“Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the grace of Christ who saves;  
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise  
Faithfully now God’s glory we praise.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Freed from the tomb by Christ who saves;  
One with his rising, healed and forgiven  
Thankfully now God’s glory we praise.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ who saves;  
Named God’s beloved, we are true children  
Joyfully now God’s glory we praise.**

\* Hymns

“A New Hallelujah”

Music Cooperative

Can you hear, there's a new song  
Breaking out from the children of freedom  
Every race and every nation  
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Let us sing love to the nations  
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us  
Make it known and make it famous  
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

*Chorus:* Arise, let the church arise, Let Love reach to the other side.  
Alive, come alive, let the song arise.

Everyone sings a new song  
Reaching out with a new Hallelujah  
Every son and every daughter  
Everyone sing a new Hallelujah. (*Chorus*)

Children's Offering & Message

Fred Robinson

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

Epistle Lesson

Selections from Acts 10

Micki Spear

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort...He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God...As the disciples were on their journey and approaching the city (of Joppa), Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven....

The next day Peter went with some of the believers from Joppa to Caesarea (where) Cornelius was expecting them...Peter said to the assembled group, 'You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?'

Cornelius replied, 'Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea." Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.'

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God.'

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

Cheri Dennis

\* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:13-17

Cheri Dennis

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

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

"Beloved and Commissioned"

Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation	Cheri Dennis
Offertory Music	Jon Weddell
* Offertory Dedication	Cheri Dennis
* Doxology	OLD HUNDREDTH
<p>φ <b>Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  Praise God all creatures here below,  Praise God above all heavenly hosts,  Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.</b></p>	

### INSTALLATION & ORDINATION OF DEACONS & ELDERS

**Elders:** Joy Decker, Lisa Cloninger, Jeff Hughes, Suzanne Lamorey, Robert Shepherd  
**Deacons:** Cheri Dennis, Jim Dwiggin, Kathy Habel, Micheal Hall, Holly Middleton, Ed Vickery, Vondalyn McQueen-Simmons  
**Officers:** Tom Magraw (E), President; JoAnn Jellison (D), Vice President; Kathleen Smith (E), Treasurer; Lisa Sherman (D), Secretary

*(Members of the Class of 2022 and Officers come forward.)*

**Pastor:** These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of the church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are here to witness to their willingness to serve.

**Tom Magraw:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service on the Consistory of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**Members:** I am.

**Tom Magraw:** Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

**Members:** I do, relying on God's grace.

**Pastor:** Are each of you who have committed to serve as officers of the congregation willing to accept the office to which you have been called and are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**Officers:** I am.

**Pastor:** Members of this household of faith, you have heard our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

**People:** We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

*(Current Elders and Deacons and the outgoing class of 2019 are invited forward for the laying on of hands.)*

### **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**Pastor:** The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you, Jim Dwiggin, Kathy Habel and Vondalyn McQueen-Simmons as Deacons. Let us together offer our prayers and blessings:

**People:** Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties, that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

**Tom Magraw:** In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, we rejoice to announce that you are each ordained as members of the Consistory. May your service be a blessing and cause you to grow in wisdom and in grace. Amen.

Called as partners in Christ’s service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,  
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering,  
Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer poorer,  
All God’s people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,  
In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other’s burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
Words of challenge, said with care.  
Bring new power and strength for action,  
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person’s sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.



\* 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 “I Know Whom I Have Believed” Jon Weddell  
*arr. Lloyd Larson*

## 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.

### CELEBRATING FOUNDER'S SUNDAY

Today we celebrate to remember what has been and to anticipate what will be. The First Reformed Church of Charlotte met for its first Sunday of worship on January 16, 1916.

### HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN, JANUARY 19

HCUCC will again host 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 TODAY, [suzlam@yahoo.com](mailto:suzlam@yahoo.com) if you are able to assist.

### HCUCC SEEKS INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Personnel Committee is accepting applications for the position of Interim Associate Pastor. This is a part-time temporary position which will run concurrently with the Interim Pastor position which has been filled. We would like to receive applications from interested persons within the

congregation. Please mail your resume with a letter of interest to the attention of the church office, or email [contactus@HolyCovenantUCC.org](mailto:contactus@HolyCovenantUCC.org). Job description is available upon request. Term will be approximately 12 months in duration, but not guaranteed.

### **RECYCLE RIGHT PRESENTATION, JANUARY 26**

Your HCUCC Environmental Team invites everyone to join us in the conference room at 12:30, for an interactive presentation and dialogue with Mecklenburg County Residential Recycling Educator, Maitri Meyer, on how to *Recycle Right*. The program is about 30 minutes, and questions following are welcomed. She has been a sustainability enthusiast for over 20 years and has a strong passion to educate others on reduced consumption and renewable energy. All are welcomed!

**Annual giving** statements will be mailed through the postal service for your use in 2019 tax preparation. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Dawn in our church office. Your generosity in sharing your gifts in support of our ministries are helping to transform our community and beyond. Thank you!

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

Elder for January: Tom Magraw, [tmagraw@aol.com](mailto:tmagraw@aol.com) or 704-614-5405

Deacons for January: JoAnn Jellison, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Laura Hankins, Deb Winston

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

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Micki Spear, Terry Raley-Dennis

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Darline Warren and extended family in the death of her brother, Virgil Stewart, and injuries of her brother, Charlie Jongeling

Family & Friends of Donna Collins

Kevin Decker, 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), Faye Grumbles (Linda Clark), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), Colin Spencer (Lloyd & Gussie Spencer), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery)

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor**

**Mr. Jon Weddell, Accompanist**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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