

# Holy Covenant

## United Church of Christ



### Silent Meditation

"How many things have to happen to you before something occurs to you?"

—Robert Frost

"This is what my soul is telling me, be peaceful and love everyone. Dear sisters and brothers, we realize the importance of light when we see darkness. We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced."

—Malala Yousafzai

"Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering.  
There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in."

—Leonard Cohen



\* Hymn

“Come! Live in the Light!”

WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the Light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
To live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain: We are called to act with justice; We are called to love tenderly  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
So hatred and violence will be no more. *(Refrain)*

Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other  
As sisters and brothers united in love. *(Refrain)*

Call to Confession “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” ARISE  
☩ Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore.  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and pow’r.

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Fred Robinson

Sung Response “O Lord, Hear My Prayer” TAIZÉ  
☩ O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

Assurance of Pardon

Fred Robinson

One: God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. God does not treat us as our transgressions deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for us. And as far as the east is from the west, God has removed our transgressions from us. We are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sung Response "Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord" OH QUE BUENO  
*Puerto Rican folk hymn*

φ Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus.  
Glory be to Jesus! Glory be to Jesus!  
In three days, he rose again. Glory be to Jesus.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.  
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.  
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

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

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

Special Music

“In Your Hands”

*Reuben Morgan*

I’m so secure. You’re here with me.

You stay the same. Your love remains here in my heart.

So close I believe you’re holding me now.

In your hands, I belong. You’ll never let me go. [2x]

You gave your life in your endless love.

You set me free and showed the way. Now I am found.

*(Chorus)*

All along you were beside me even when I couldn’t tell.

Through the years, you showed me more of you, more of you.

*(Chorus)*

\* Gospel Lesson

John 9:13-23

Fred Robinson

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

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

"Spread Love Today"

Fred Robinson

Offertory Invitation

Cheri Dennis

\* Hymn

"We'll Walk in the Light"

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**

**Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.**

**O, shine all around us by day and by night.**

**Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Joyful all you nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Join the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world.**

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**

**Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.**

**O, shine all around us by day and by night.**

**Jesus, the light of the world.**

\* Benediction

Fred Robinson

\* Benediction Response

“Song of Hope”

CANTO DE ESPERANZA

*Argentine folk melody*

☉ **May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.**

Postlude

“Near the Cross”

Jon Weddell

*arr. L. Shackley*

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor**

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

### Coronavirus update on worship

After additional consultation with our staff and church leadership, Sunday Worship will be live streamed every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. until further notice. Be on the lookout for important updates from us as we monitor developments about Covid-19.

Our greatest priority is the safety and well-being of our neighbors and members of our congregation. Our actions impact the world around us so practicing physical distancing is not only necessary but it is an act of kindness and love. To paraphrase a verse from the Talmud, *"Anyone who saves one life it is as if she has saved the whole world."*

Fred Robinson  
Interim Pastor

## WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

We welcome all who worship with us at Holy Covenant.

## MIDWEEK LENTEN STUDIES MOVE TO ZOOM\*\* WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15 pm

Join us via Zoom for "Exploring the Ten Commandments: A Lenten Devotional." Contrary to what many believe, the Ten Commandments are not merely prohibitions against specific acts, they are an imaginative, expansive and creative treatise of godly living. When read properly, they teach us how to lead lives that are pleasing to God, blessed by God, and empowered by God. They do this, in part, by helping us get the three most important relationships in life right. Our relationship to God, our relationship to others, and our relationship to ourselves. In fact, when Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment, Christ responded that we should love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind, and our neighbors as ourselves ([Matthew 22:37, 39](#)).

That captures the three above-mentioned relationships - God, our neighbors and ourselves. Some people miss the fact that Jesus is including self-love, for how can you do what the "b" clause of verse 39 demands - "love thy neighbor as thyself" - if you don't first love yourself? These three relationships sum up what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called the "three dimensions of a complete life." And isn't that what Lent is ultimately about? As we prepare ourselves for the passion, death and resurrection of Christ, we best honor Christ's sacrifice by getting these three relationships right.

***\*\*ZOOM - is an audio/video platform available for any mobile device, tablet, laptop or PC. Check your App store for ZOOM. There is no need to pay for this service to attend meetings. (recommend first time to join in a little early)***

<https://zoom.us/j/9725573286> click the meeting link anytime after 12pm  
Wednesdays

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE DAILY ON FACEBOOK

From the writers of the popular UCC online [Daily Devotional](#), *Deliver Us* includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day. Devotional will be posted to the [Holy Covenant UCC FaceBook page](#) daily.

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.



## SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Look for our continuing study of the Gospel of Mark to resume next Sunday, March 29th via Zoom. I miss our Sunday morning discussions and fellowship. If you ordered the 2nd book in the study series and were not able to pick it up before the self-distancing/quarantining began, please let me know. It can be delivered to you (at a safe distance) or it can be scanned and emailed to you. May God's peace be with you now and always, Cheri [cherid@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:cherid@holycovenantucc.org).

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

#### Members

**Yvette Stewart Ross in the death of her wife, Deb Ross**

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Rick & Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Dawn Robinson, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Mamie Stokes, Shakti Subramanian, Kathleen Wagner

#### 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), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Mike Reynard & Linda Matkins (Robert Shepherd), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)