



Silent Meditation

“Jesus owes his whole existence, authority, identity, and purpose to God; he originates from God, is begotten of God, belongs eternally to the life and existence of God. Through him we, too, originate from God, are begotten of God, and belong eternally to the life and existence of God.”

-Catherine Mowry LaCugna

The great mystery is that Jesus, in whom the fullness of God dwells, has become our home. Through Jesus, God has entered the intimacy of our innermost self, so that we can enter into God's intimacy. This is the mystery of the incarnation: by taking our flesh God made a home in us. Thus we are clothed with divinity and find our home in God.”

- Henry Nouwen

You are within God. God is within you.

- Peace Pilgrim

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
We are Christ’s new creation by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
With precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.

Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
One charter of salvation, on God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,
To one hop we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.

’Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! God gives us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Hymn 502

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind”
(verses 1, 4, and 5)

REST

Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways,
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives your service find, in deeper reverence praise.

Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of your peace.

Breathe through the pulses of desire your coolness and your balm;
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm.

Children's Message

Cheri Dennis

New Testament Reading 1 Peter 2:9-10

Cheri Dennis

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

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

Gift in Song

"I Need You to Survive"
Felicia Robinson, vocalist

DAVID FRAZIER

I need you. You need me. We're all a part of God's body.
Stand with me. Agree with me. We're all a part of God's body
It is God's will that every need be supplied.
You are important to me. I need you to survive.

I pray for you. You pray for me. I love you. I need you to survive.
I won't harm you with words from my mouth.
I love you. I need you to survive.

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

Cheri Dennis

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,

and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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 ‘God’ In Us”

Fred Robinson

* Hymn

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ASSAM

I have decided to follow Jesus. (3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me. (3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow. (3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? (3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

Benediction

Fred Robinson

* Benediction Response “The Summons”

KELVINGROVE

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I’ll go, where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Postlude

“God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow”

SPARROW

arr. Edward Broughton

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

Coronavirus update on worship

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

We are grateful for all who make our virtual Sunday Worship possible, and delight in your joining us via live stream 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

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

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



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.](#)

2020 VIRTUAL AIDS WALK

All are invited to join our Holy Covenant team as we come together to end HIV in the Charlotte community. We will be virtually walking this year during the month of May to make a positive impact to Charlotte RAIN organization and those impacted by HIV. By being a part of our team, you are empowering persons living with HIV and those at risk to be healthy and stigma free. Sign up on our Holy Covenant team site:



<https://p2p.onecause.com/aidswalkcharlotte/bob-saylorholy-covenant-ucc>.

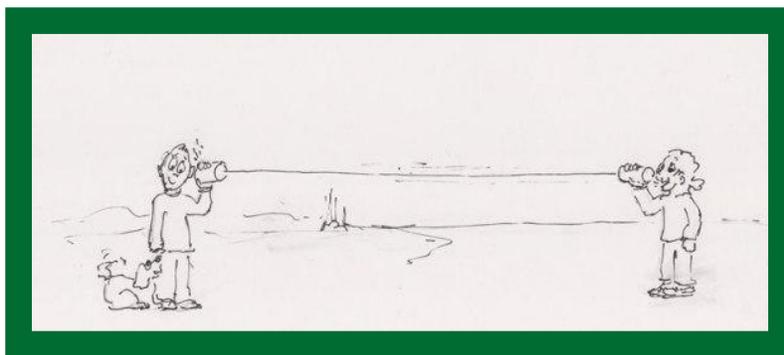
All funds raised will benefit **RAIN** and their work with those living with AIDs or at risk. Questions, please contact Bob Saylor at bchs3201@aol.com.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

Watch for upcoming Meet Ups information soon!
Thursday, May 28th, 7:30 pm facilitated by Lisa Cloninger
Saturday, June 20th, 12:30 pm facilitated by Sally Duffy



EACH ONE, REACH ONE

As social distancing enters its third week, many of us miss the connections we'd come to count on in the service and socializing after. To that end, we're encouraging an "Each one, reach one" practice, whereby we each call one person each week--it could be the person who sat next to you, someone you know who lives alone, someone you would usually seek out after service. The church directory has phone and email data or you can contact the church office for contact information.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM EXCITING STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

In preparation for Pentecost, we are now exploring the book of Acts chapter by chapter on Wednesday. The book covers the first 30 years or so of the early church, from the resurrection to about 62 CE. The narrative starts with Jesus saying goodbye to his followers then describes the life and work of the disciples of Jesus. It's an exciting action-packed story. All are invited to join us in our weekly Zoom Bible Study class on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm. The link to the class is

<https://zoom.us/j/488584017?pwd=TE5YK2dub293ckhiYUUh5TDZmRTRndz09>

Password: 580673

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

SOJOURNERS CLASS - VIA ZOOM NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners Class invites you to join us in a Zoom class on Sunday mornings at about 9:50. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark. Newcomers 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.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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, Yvette Stewart Ross, Mamie Stokes, Shakti Subramanian

Friends & Family Members

Family & Friends of Dico Wilhelm (Dominic Ciciollo)

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), Crystal Wing and Family (Martha Bomely), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)



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

Mailed checks should be sent securely to:
Holy Covenant UCC, PO Box 481286, 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/

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.

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

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