



Silent Meditation

"If we do anything to further the kingdom of God, we may expect to find what Christ found on that road – abuse, indifference, injustice, misunderstanding, trouble of some kind. Take it. Why not? To that you were called. If we think of the glorious fact that we are on the same path with Jesus, we might see a rainbow."

– Elisabeth Elliot

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

– Corrie Ten Boom

"Instant obedience is the only kind of obedience there is; delayed obedience is disobedience."

– Thomas `a Kempis

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music “My Jesus, I Love Thee” (GORDON) *arr. L. Smith*
 “Here, O My Lord” (LANGRAN) *arr. L. Shackley*

Welcome and Announcements Fred Robinson
and Offertory Invitation

One: The Easter joy of the Living Christ be with you all!
Many: **And also with you.**

Introit “The Summons” KELVINGROVE
“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

* Words of Preparation Cheri Dennis
One: We are called to be Christian witnesses; to accept the cost and joy of discipleship.
Many: **And to be faithful in seeking God with our whole hearts.**
One: We are called to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table and tell the story of God’s love.
Many: **And to join Christ in his passion and victory.**
One: We are called to keep Christ’s commandments and to always be ready to defend the hope that is in us with all gentleness and reverence.
Many: **And to be zealous in good works even in the face of persecution knowing that Christ suffered to show us a better way.**
All: **Let us now worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!**

* Hymn 4

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”
(verses 1, 3, and 4)

HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Gift in Song

“You Are Mine”

DAVID HAAS

Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, vocalists

I will come to you in the silence. I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice. I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

*Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home.
I love you, and you are mine.*

I am hope for all who are hopeless. I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night I will be your light. Come and rest in me.

I am strength for all the despairing,
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free;
And all will know my name.

I am the Word that leads all to freedom.
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain;
Stand up, now walk, and live!

Hebrew Scripture Reading Psalm 66: 8-20

Debbie Davis

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Selah

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

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

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

Hymn 454

“Lord, I Want to be a Christian”

SPIRITUAL

(verses 1, 2 and 4)

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, (*in my heart*), in my heart (*in my heart*).

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving...

Lord, I want to be like Jesus...

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:13-17
from The Message Bible

Cheri Dennis

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to 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

“Remaining Faithful in a Hostile World”

Fred Robinson

* Hymn

“Come! Live in Light!”
Arr. David Haas

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)***

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

“Great Is Our God”
arr. Dale Wood

O STORE GUD

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:



WHITE PRIVILEGE
let's talk

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.



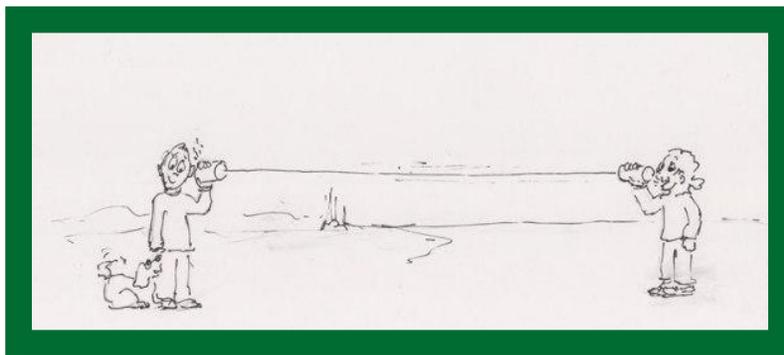
UCC Mental Health Network

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

In this time of social distancing, 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=TE5YK2dub293ckhiYUh5TDZmRTRndz09>

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.





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

Mailed checks should be sent securely to:

Holy Covenant UCC
PO Box 481285
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/



Coming this weekend! When you make your offering on the church website, the transaction via Wallet/Subsplash will allow you the option to cover the fee. We still accept donations via PayPal, however they do not offer that option to pay the transaction fee at this time.

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.

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)

Family & Friends of Crystal Wing (Martha Bomely)

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), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor

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Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Interim Associate Pastor

cherid@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Jon Weddell, M. Div., Minister of Music

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