

By Cecil L. Reed Jr. aka CREED

Silent Meditation

"Holy Father, protect them."

~ *Jesus Christ*

"...left to ourselves we lapse into a kind of collusion with entropy, acquiescing in the general belief that things may be getting worse but that there's nothing much we can do about them.

And we are wrong.

Our task in the present...is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second."

N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church, 21st century

From time to time [in Scripture], embracing and practicing true religion, and repenting of sin, and turning to holiness, is expressed by glorifying God, as though that were the sum and end of the whole matter.

~ *Jonathan Edwards - 1852*

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
One purpose I declare:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

New strength comes night or day
When from the heart we say
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let sin and evil fear,
When this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Discordant humankind,
In this your concord find,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song,
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Gift in Song

“Searching for Lambs” arr. B Kollé and L. Riley
Hannah Magraw, harpist

Children’s Message

Fred Robinson

New Testament Reading 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Micki Spear

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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

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

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul - how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my in-most calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing;
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's - how can I keep from singing?

* Gospel Lesson

John 17:1-11
from The Message Bible

Fred Robinson

Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said: Father, it's time. Display the bright splendor of your Son so the Son in turn may show your bright splendor. You put him in charge of everything human so he might give real and eternal life to all in his charge. And this is the real and eternal life: that they know you, the one and only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do. And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, the very splendor I had in your presence before there was a world. I spelled out your character in detail to the men and women you gave me. They were yours in the first place; then you gave them to me, and they have now done what you said. They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is firsthand from you, for the message you gave me, I gave them; and they took it, and were convinced that I came from you. They believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world but for those you gave me, for they are yours by right. Everything mine is yours, and yours mine, and my life is on display in them. For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world; they'll continue in the world while I return to you. Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind.

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

“Glorified!”

Cheri Dennis

* Hymn 542

“Born of God, Eternal Savior”

WEISSE FLAGGEN

1. Born of God, Eternal Savior, source of life, of truth and grace,
Human One, whose birth incarnate hallows all our human race,
Come again, in all your glory; come to us, inspire and lead;
Fill us with your loving kindness, heal our wrongs, and help our need.
2. Christ, as you have lived for others, so may we for others live;
Freely have your gifts been granted, freely may your servants give.
All the wealth that we may gather is for use in causes just.
We are stewards of the bounty loaned to us in solemn trust.
3. Come, O Christ, and reign among us, granting love and joy and peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure, shame our selfish greed for gain.
4. See the Christ-like host advancing, high and lowly, great and small,
Linked in bonds of common service, answering the Savior's call.
Jesus Christ, we hear your pleading that your people should be one.
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth, your will be done.

Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* 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

“Eternal Spirit, Strong to Save” (Navy Hymn) Kathleen Smith
by John B Dykes, arranged by Labenske

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

UPDATE ON CHURCH CONTINUING VIRTUAL WORSHIP

May 22, 2020

Dear Holy Covenant Family,

Since suspending in-gathering worship services on March 15 to prevent the spread of COVID-19, a few things have transpired. On April 23, Gov. Roy Cooper announced a three-phased approach to gradually lift Coronavirus restrictions. Today at 5 pm, Phase 2 starts and while it still limits gatherings of more than 10 persons, a federal judge recently ruled that churches in North Carolina can meet under fewer restrictions. We pray for houses of faith that choose this route, as some are, but we've decided to *lovingly* exercise caution and continue worshipping virtually.

As eager as we are to get back into the sanctuary where we can see each other and worship together, COVID-19 remains a serious threat and we need to do everything possible to slow its spread. The love of God is best expressed through the love of neighbor and physical distancing during these unprecedented times is the best expression of that love.

Our decision about when to reopen may not coincide with the interests of our government but it will be based on the leading of the Spirit and on what's best for our community. In the words of the songwriter Hezekiah Walker, "We love you and we need you to survive." We will continue to prayerfully monitor developments and keep you informed.

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

We are delighted to welcome back Kathleen Smith as our accompanist for today while Jon Weddell takes a brief break. Kathleen has been an important part of our music ministry; including vocalist and worship team leader, as well as being our current Treasurer at Holy Covenant UCC. We continued to receive her blessings in many ways.

DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Please notify the [church office](#) of students associated with Holy Covenant who will be graduating from high school or college this spring. We would like a picture and brief bio for each student for publication in the bulletin on Graduation Sunday.



READERS AND MUSICIANS WANTED!

If you'd like to share your talents remotely, Brian Hankins' has created a great tutorial to help us along! <https://vimeo.com/416712217>

For the best experience, get the Vimeo app:

Android - https://bit.ly/vimeo_android

iOS - https://bit.ly/vimeo_ios

Interested readers should contact Laura Hankins, laura@hankins-clt.us; interested musicians should contact Kathi Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com.

INVITATION TO RUN OR WALK FOR JUSTICE

You are invited to join a virtual 2.23-mile 'Run or Walk for Justice' in support of Amaud Arbery's family, the 25-year-old who was killed in Brunswick, Georgia.

When: May 25 at 7 a.m.

Why: The 2.23 mile walk or run symbolizes the February date that Ahmaud Arbery was shot and killed.

Action Steps: Post your videos on social media to your individual accounts and to your ministry sites.

To join the event please sign up no later than Saturday, May 24 at 6 p.m. The event starts at 7 a.m. on Monday morning at First Baptist Church-West at 1801 Oaklawn Ave. To register- send your name, email, social media site to RevG4MecMin@gmail.com.

This event is sponsored by First Baptist Church-West Charlotte and the United Missionary Baptist Association.

2020 VIRTUAL AIDS WALK

Thank you Holy Covenant for supporting our church virtual walkers team this month in raising dollars to support the important work of [RAIN](#) in helping those living with HIV/Aids in

our community. To date, we have raised almost \$600 through your generosity. To learn more about RAIN and to donate on a secure site to this important ministry, please use our church team page

at <https://p2p.onecause.com/aidswalkcharlotte/bob-saylorholy-covenant-ucc>. Questions, please contact Bob Saylor at bchs3201@aol.com.



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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/488584017?pwd=TE5YK2dub293ckhiYUk5TDZmRTRndz09>

Password: 580673

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

CLASS - VIA ZOOM NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

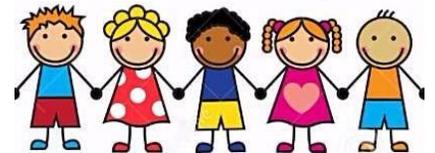
The Sojourners Class invites you to join us in a Zoom class on Sunday mornings at about 9:50. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark. Newcomers are always welcome. Here is the link to the Zoom class:

<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.



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

The poster features a dark blue background with a white rectangular area in the upper center. The title 'WHITE PRIVILEGE' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, with 'let's talk' in a smaller, lowercase, grey font below it. Underneath the text is a row of five small, square portrait photos of diverse individuals. Below the white area, the dates 'MAY 13TH - JUNE 24TH' and the times '1:00 - 3:00 PM OR 6:00 - 8:00 PM' are displayed in a yellow, sans-serif font. The bottom section of the poster contains two paragraphs of white text on the dark blue background, describing the program as a resource for transformational dialogue and providing details about the cohort meetings and registration requirements.

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.](#)



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/

New giving options! 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.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

**Join us for the next Virtual Meet Up!
Thursday, May 28th, 7:30 pm facilitated by Lisa Cloninger**

**"Laughter is the Best Medicine: How humor helps during a crisis."
Join us to spend some time together, check in on how we are doing, and have some fun laughing and talking about how humor helps in times for stress. Bring your favorite joke to share (PG please) and join in the fun!**

Saturday, June 20th, 12:30 pm facilitated by Sally Duffy



Your WISE Team continues to locate helpful resources to get us through challenging times. [Click here](#), or see the weekly newsletter, for a full list including links for information on Addressing Stress and Mental Health Concerns; meditations, help with older adults, supporting kids, and making connections with others.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kim Buch, 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 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
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

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810