



By Wayne A. I. Frederick

## Silent Meditation

“As beloved triune community, God ‘dances’ to [restore] human communities torn by suffering, hatred, and division. God empathizes with the oppressed in ‘blues-filled’ experiences and directs their anger creatively and constructively for the sake of justice. In particular, the Spirit who hovered in creation from the beginning of the world is the creative and ‘life-inspiring relation of God’ that makes ‘a way out of no way possible.’ She is the relational action of God sent ‘to create beauty out of ugliness, celebrate life in the midst of suffering, and walk in love in the midst of hate.’ As the life-giving relation, the Spirit prophetically seeks to realize human societies in the image of God.

— Miguel H. Díaz, drawing from Karen Baker-Fletcher



Hymn 277

“Holy, Holy, Holy”  
(Verses 1, 3, and 4)

NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!  
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,  
Through the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,  
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!  
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

Song of Response

“I Am Willing”  
*Felicia, Kathi, Laura, Lisa*

Holly Near

*I am open and I am willing, to be hopeless would seem so strange  
It dishonors those who go before us so lift me up to the light of change*

There is hurting in my family. There is sorrow in my town.  
There is panic in the nation. There is wailing the whole world round.

May the children see more clearly. May the elders be more wise.  
May the winds of change caress us. Even though it burns our eyes.

Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion. Give me a desert to hold my fears.  
Give me a sunset to hold my wonder. Give me an ocean to hold my tears.

Children’s Message

Cheri Dennis

O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.  
Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,  
all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**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

“I Love the Lord”

SPIRITUAL

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.  
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and chased my grief away.  
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

\* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 28: 16-20

Fred Robinson

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

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

“Practicing Trinity: A Vision for Justice”

Fred Robinson

Special Offering, Strengthen the Church

<https://youtu.be/YaY63n3W7SA>

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Invitation

Fred Robinson

Community of saints, beloved of God, we are invited to gather at the Communion Table of love, to feast on the dreams of God, to be nourished by the bread and wine, and to remember Christ's sacrifice.

The table calls us from institutional halls of power, from shelters and the streets; from classrooms and pulpits, from half-way homes and prison cells. The table calls us as we are, from wherever we are, to be in solidarity with Christ, who lives and loves on the margins.

Come, and love relentlessly; following Christ on paths of uncertainty, taking risks for one another, calling down unjust power from its throne and lifting up the lowly, the impoverished, and the over-burdened.

Come, and answer the call of Christ, no matter your social location, to take on the cause of the marginalized, the oppressed, the outcast, and the isolated—with the understanding and with the faith that together—we might en flesh new possibilities of healing, of connection, and freedom from all that destroys life.

And so let us come to the table, expectant, eager, open to tasting the rich blessings of heaven born from unexpected places, and people, and experiences.

In this meal, as we celebrate where ever we are, may we remember the life, death, and resurrection of the One who still takes on flesh among us today.

Prayer of Consecration

Fred Robinson

And so we now pray, come Holy Spirit, Breath of God, Renewer of life, settle on these gifts both in this sanctuary and in the sanctuaries of the living rooms and homes of our viewers, that we might be transformed in our remembrance of your radical love, your eternal embrace, and your grace that makes all things new. For the sake of our shared lives, the life

of this land on which we live, and the lives of those yet to come, nourish us and renew our hope that soon Christ may rise again among us.

Words of Institution

Cheri Dennis

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: **We give thanks, Living God, that You have refreshed us at Your table by shining the Light of Christ into our lives. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace. Amen.**

\* Hymn                                    “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”                                    FINEST WHEAT  
*You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;  
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.*

**As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;  
So when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice. (Refrain)**

**With joyful lips, we sing to you our praise and gratitude  
That you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heavenly food. (R)**

**Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord? (R)**

**The mystery of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. (R)**

**You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in your name in truth and charity. (R)**

Benediction

Fred Robinson

\* Benediction Response “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”                                    SOJOURNER  
**I want Jesus to walk with me. [2x]  
All along my pilgrim journey, oh, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Postlude

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

arr. A. M. David

## 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 have, 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:**

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith



## **TRANSITION TEAM**

Periods of transition are extremely significant in the life of the church. They offer both a unique opportunity for renewal and a time to reflect on the future of the church in meaningful ways. *Input from all will be critical during this process.* Please look for messages from the Transition Team inviting you to participate through brief questionnaires (10 questions or less), Zoom meetings, and other activities.

The first step in our Settled Pastor Transition process is to focus on our heritage. During the Heritage phase, we seek to remember, honor, and learn from our history as a congregation. *You are essential to this process!*

**This week, we ask you to share your personal experiences and perspectives using this brief online Heritage Questionnaire.** We also ask that anyone who is in touch with a member of the Holy Covenant community whom we are not reaching with this message to contact them, offer to ask them the questions over the phone, and record their responses in the form. Anyone who would prefer a paper form may contact Dawn Schmitz at [dmschmitz@gmail.com](mailto:dmschmitz@gmail.com) and provide your mailing address.

Access to the Heritage Questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/cUj9fntZp5GfJ3nMA>

## **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](https://bit.ly/vimeo_android)

iOS - [https://bit.ly/vimeo\\_ios](https://bit.ly/vimeo_ios)

Interested readers should contact Laura Hankins, [laura@hankins-clt.us](mailto:laura@hankins-clt.us); interested musicians should contact Kathi Smith, [kathleenie53@msn.com](mailto:kathleenie53@msn.com).

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

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=TE5YK2dub293ckhiYUh5TDZmRTRndz09>

**Password: 580673**

Lead by Pastor Fred Robinson, [Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org).

## **SOJOURNERS CLASS – VIA ZOOM NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sojourners Class started a new book this Sunday, *The Will of God* by Leslie Weatherhead. Please join us at 9:45 for what will prove to be a vibrant discussion. Please note that this book was published in 1945 so the language (particularly male/female roles) and examples reflect that time. The book is available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle. If you have questions, please contact Cheri Dennis, [cherid@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:cherid@holycovenantucc.org) or 704-519-6016.

Here's the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84161657040?pwd=NGVHUmd0RW1uaFprTkRCZjFQRjBZQT09>

## **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](mailto:Education@holycovenantucc.org).



## **CONVERSATIONS AROUND RACE [UCC Condemning Racism Statement 06 2020](#)**

### **WHITE PRIVILEGE - LET'S TALK**

Offered by Rev. LaShauna Austria

Southern Conference Minister for Racial Equality and Justice

A resource for Transformational Dialogue, and a curriculum from the UCC that's designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race.

**Sessions are offered at two different times.** To prepare for this fifth gathering (June 10), read Part 4 of *White Privilege Curriculum*.

Registration is required! Register with links below if you are not already signed up for one of the weekly sessions.

[Register for June 10th from 1:00 - 3:00 PM](#)

[Register for June 10th 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](#).

## **HOLY COVENANT FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Our Church's finances have been impacted by the 2020 pandemic and your Budget team continues to monitor our financial situation closely. Our monthly expenses are slightly lower than planned because we are meeting virtually and our revenues have also been reduced including cancelled building rental income and non-pledged gifts usually given in the Sunday plate passing. Early on, our leadership made the decision to continue to fully pay our dedicated and extraordinary staff, even those that are not working at this time such as our youth and child care workers, and this has been possible from your generosity.

We are thankful for your financial gifts and encourage all to continue your giving as able so we can continue to support our ministries in the community and pay our monthly expenses including payroll, mortgage, utilities, insurance and church maintenance. We are also working hard to maintain our building and grounds during this time of virtual worship so that we will enjoy an extravagant welcome when we all return to our place of worship. Know that your financial gifts are being spent to continue the vibrant ministries we have committed to and we appreciate your commitment to the mission and transformational work of Holy Covenant.

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/](http://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.

You may also use your bank's On-Line Banking/Bill Payment service to establish the payment and the set-up is typically a one-time event and takes just a few minutes. Your monthly bank payment may be started and stopped at any time with no processing charges at most financial institutions and provides an efficient way to plan and send your funds to Holy Covenant.

With Gratitude for the Many Ways You Support Our Ministries at Holy Covenant UCC!  
Your 2020 Budget and Finance Team



**UCC Mental Health Network**  
Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

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**

Lisa and Jim Sherman in the death of Lisa's father, Dudley Hall  
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, Deb Winston

### **Friends & Family Members**

The family and friends of Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd)  
David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Grady & Pat Judd (William Judd), William Lorenz (Tom & Dianne Bayes), 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**