Silent Meditation

“It’s time to choose your side. Let a new earth rise. Let another world be born. Let a bloody peace be written in the sky. Let a second generation full of courage issue forth; let a people loving freedom come to growth. Let a healing and a strength of final clenching be the pulsing in our spirits and our blood. Let the martial songs be written, let the dirges disappear.”

– MARGARET WALKER

“The time has come, God knows for us to examine ourselves, but we can do this only if we are willing to free ourselves of the myth of America and try to find out what is really happening here.”

– JAMES BALDWIN

“You really want that utopian ideal of what our world could be? You want to be proudly and ACTIVELY anti-racist, more than fearing being called a racist? I want that for you too. If so, then do the work, educate yourself and others and stand by us loudly, consistently, FOREVER.”

– CLARA AMFO

The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now.

– UNKNOWN
June 14, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music  “I Surrender All”  SURRENDER

arr. Lloyd Larson and Lenny Seidel

Welcome and Announcements  Fred Robinson

and Offertory Invitation

One:  May the Spirit of the Living Christ be with you all!
Many:  And also with you.

Introit  “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.

When I’m troubled, Lord, walk with me.  [2x]
When my head is bowed in sorrow, oh, I want Jesus to walk with me.

* Call to Worship  Cheri Dennis

One:  In the midst of a world marred by violence, hatred, racism, bigotry and greed . . .
All:  Come worship a God who brings justice and liberates the oppressed.
One:  In the midst of a world of food deserts and hunger . . .
All:  Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.
One:  In the midst of a world where people are reeling from the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 . . .
All:  Come worship a God who shows up with us in solidarity and compassion.
One:  In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war . . .
All:  Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.
One:  In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness . . .
All:  Come worship a God who gives life meaning and whose grace and love know no end.
**Hymn 28  “For the Beauty of the Earth”  Dix**

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild,  
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, And for every heart renewed,  
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Fred Robinson

**Children’s Message**

Cheri Dennis

**Hebrew Scripture  Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8  Robert Shepherd**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

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 99

“Abide with Me”

(verses 3-5)

I need your presence every passing hour;
I need your grace to foil the tempter’s power.
Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still if you abide with me.

Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Christ, abide with me.

* Sermonic Text
Psalm 90: 12; 16-17
Fred Robinson

So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

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
“Kairos - The Now of God’s Time”
Fred Robinson
Special Music               “Turn, Turn, Turn”               Pete Seeger  
                              *Hankins Family*                  

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                        “I Surrender All”                arr. Janet Vogt
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 worshiping 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:
Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins, Henry Hankins, Felicia Robinson, Kathleen Smith
TRANSITION TEAM
Thank you to all who have submitted the Heritage Questionnaire, a first step in our Settled Pastor Transition process! We want input from all who worship at Holy Covenant UCC. Please help us with your responses.

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 asked you to share your personal experiences and perspectives using this brief online Heritage Questionnaire. We need to hear from more of you! 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 and provide your mailing address.

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

THE MICHAEL G. BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP 2020-2021
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE
The Michael G. Brooks Scholarship Fund is to encourage Youth in both their educational growth as well as their service to God. Scholarship funds of $2000 will be considered annually for all applicants. Details can be found in the application and should be submitted no later than July 10, 2020 to Cheri Dennis, cherid@holycovenantucc.org. Download the Application here. Applicants will be notified by July 31, 2020.

GOT TIME? CAN YOU SEW? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
HCUCC has all the supplies and 2 machines at the ready for making masks for our local community members. If you have time, and are able to cut materials, or can sew from a provided pattern, please contact Dawn in the church office, office@holycovenantucc.org or 704-599-9810, for scheduled time. We're all set up for good social distancing! Let's help our neighbors stay safe as well, shall we?
Thank you Holy Covenant Faithful! Through your contributions, our church donated $650 towards the 2020 RAIN Virtual Aids Walk and we were recognized as the 3rd highest dollars raised among religious organizations this year. Thank you for your prayers and financial support of this important ministry for many in need in our community. Special thanks to team captain, Bob Saylor for organizing us so well!

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

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 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.
CONVERSATIONS AROUND RACE
UCC Condemning Racism Statement 06 2020

WHITE PRIVILEGE - LET'S TALK
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. http://privilege.uccpages.org/

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

Thank you all for trying our new 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: holycovenucc.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

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 Mikkelsen, 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
David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), 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
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