Silent Meditation

“The church doesn’t have an agenda; it is the agenda. The church doesn’t have a missional strategy; it is the missional strategy.” — Michael Frost

“‘Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’” — Mark 10.52

“The social gospel calls for an expansion in the scope of salvation and for more religious dynamic to do the work of God. It requires more faith and not less.” — Walter Rauschenbusch

“In the meantime we can understand a reluctance to focus too much on the content of Jesus’ preaching, largely because it is easier to talk about him than it is to talk about what he talked about.” — Peter J. Gomes

“Religious faith presupposes a mandate to write, speak, and act for social justice.” — Helen LaKelly Hunt
June 21, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music
“Thuma Mina/Send Me Jesus” arr. M. Sedio
“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” arr. C. Putnam

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: Come to hear the Word.
All: Come to do the Word.
One: Come to worship God in our most holy faith.
All: Come to join God in acts of love.
One: Come to experience God’s comfort and grace.
All: Come to live into God’s justice for all.
One: Come to experience Comfort.
All: Come to experience Challenge.
One: Come to find Joy.
All: Come to find Cost.
One: Come to find Humanity.
All: Come to find Community.
One: Come to find Church.
All: Come to find God.
Time is filled with swift transition. Naught of earth unmoved can stand. Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.

*Refrain:* 
*Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand. (2x)*  
*Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

Trust in God who will not leave you. Whatsoever years may bring. If by earthly friends for sake, still more closely to God clinging.  

Covet not this world's vain riches that so rapidly decay. Seek to gain the heavenly treasures. They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed, if to God you have been true, Fair and bright the home in Glory your enraptured soul will view.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response  “Heal Our Nation”  
*Heal our nation.* (3x)  *Pour out your Spirit on this land.*

Children’s Message

Graduate Recognition - Class of 2020
*Micah Baldonado*  *Grace Wilkes*  
*Alex Griffith*  *Claire Houlihan*  
*Jocelyn Hughes*  *Kyra Robinson*  
*Jordan Robinson*  *Allison Semands*  

Click on the Adobe PDF document to the right for photos and a bio on each of the graduates.
What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

One:  May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Many:  Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.
Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,
Jesu, you acted as servant to them. (Refrain)

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
All these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)

Loving puts us on our knees, showing our faith by our deeds,
Serving the neighbors we have from you. (Refrain)

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you. (Refrain)
My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Have a seat here, please’, while to the one who is poor you say, ‘Stand there’, or, ‘Sit at my feet’, have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

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 “Faith in the Face of Empire” Fred Robinson
Now is the moment, now is the time.
This very day there is salvation.

Don’t want a heaven after I’m gone:
I need a place to keep my family warm.
Don’t want a vision of saints robed in white.
I want the blind to see the sweet morning light.

Don’t want a future where God sets things right:
I need a neighborhood to walk safe at night.
Don’t want a banquet in heaven above
‘til no one is hungry in this world that I love.

Don’t want a kingdom, don’t want a crown,
‘til all nations lay their angry weapons down.
No Armageddon, no thousand years,
no more tomorrows! Only now. Only here.
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

51st WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
Holy Covenant UCC would like to congratulate Tom & Kathy Habel in celebration of their 51st Wedding Anniversary! Best wishes to you both on this momentous occasion! Cards can be sent to them at Aldersgate, 3800 Shamrock Drive, FRB#1127, Charlotte, NC 28215

**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 past 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?
We are grateful for those who are sewing masks from home!

**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](https://vimeo.com/416712217)

For the best experience, get the Vimeo app:

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. A NEW LINK to the class is below:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=blRqZWIOWFpsIFpSFpRTmwvOGFldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=blRqZWIOWFpsIFpSFpRTmwvOGFldz09)

Password: 901329

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

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

The Sojourners Class continues conversations of the book, *The Will of God* by Leslie Weatherhead. Please join us Sunday mornings 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=NGVHUmd0RW1uaFprTkRCZjFQRIbZQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84161657040?pwd=NGVHUmd0RW1uaFprTkRCZjFQRIbZQT09)

**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**

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.ucmpages.org/](http://privilege.ucmpages.org/)

*White Privilege: Let's Talk / A Resource for Transformational Dialogue can also be downloaded (free) as a pdf document from UCC Resources.*
FROM THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OFFICE
The Southern Conference is trying to make sure everyone stays informed. Please share with your friends to make sure they are on the SOC e-News list by replying with their name, e-mail address, church and role. ALL are welcome to receive Southern Conference News.

HOLY COVENANT WAYS TO GIVE
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: 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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER
Members
Kim Buch, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, 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
office@holycovenantucc.org

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