



Ashley France

Silent Meditation

“To reside in the hopelessness of the now is to be cognizant of the joy and disappointment of the moment.”

- Miguel A. De La Torre

“It is no wonder that Earth groans, waiting for those of us who are Christian to claim our birthright and responsibilities as children of God, to finally stand up and say, Enough!”

- Leah D. Schade

“Hope will never be silent.”

- Harvey Milk

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

July 19, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music “Blessed Assurance” arr. L. Bergquist

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 “Let Us Adore” J. Chajes

Bass:

Let us adore
the ever-living God
and render praise
unto God,
who spread out the heavens
and established the earth
and whose glory
is revealed in the heavens above
and whose greatness

Treble:

Let us adore
the ever-living God
and render praise
unto God,
who spread out the heavens
and established the earth
and whose glory
in the heavens above
and whose greatness

All: Is manifest throughout all the earth.
 You are our God. There is none else.

* Call to Worship Meg Houlihan

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is
in the Lord their God.

Many: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever.

One: The Lord sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind,
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Many: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all
generations. Praise the Lord!

All: Let us worship God!

Hymn 43

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Special Music

“Take Time to Be Holy”

arr. Shelly Hamilton

Kathi Smith, Laura Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Meg Houlihan, vocalists

Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord.
Abide in God always and feed on God’s word.
Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing, God’s blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on.
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like God you shall be.
Your friends in your conduct God’s likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let God be your guide,
And run not before God, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow your Lord,
And looking to Jesus, still trust in God’s word.
Take time to be holy with Jesus alone.

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

LEMMELE

“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in God's wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of God's glory and grace.**

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 2:11-15; 23-25

Dorrie Hankins

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong, ‘Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?’ He answered, ‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?’ Then Moses was afraid and thought, ‘Surely the thing is known.’ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

After a long time, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

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

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

Gift in Song

“Change My Heart, O God”

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, oh God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. (*Refrain*)

Scripture Lesson

Romans 8: 12-25

Fred Robinson

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

“The Audacity to Hope”

Fred Robinson

* Hymn 570

“We Shall Overcome”

TRADITIONAL

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome some day.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We are not afraid today.

Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,
Our God will see us through some day;
Oh, deep in any heart, I do believe
Our God will see us through some day.

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response

“Song of Hope”

ARGENTINA

Praying, let us work for peace. Singing, share our joy with all.

Working for a world that’s new. Faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

Postlude

“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

arr. L. Bergquist

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

UPDATE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

July 7, 2020

Dear Holy Covenant United Church of Christ community:

To say that this time of quarantine has been hard on all of us is an understatement. As a Church, we miss worshiping and having fellowship together. We want to get back to church! Our thought is we will get back to in-person worship once it is healthy and safe for you, our members. Even before stay at home directives were issued Holy Covenant called together a Pandemic Response Team. Our Consistory and the Pandemic Response Team have concluded that it is NOT yet time to return to in-person worship.

Our decision is based on the following reasons:

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet is recommended. This means the sanctuary will hold many fewer attendees than pre-COVID-19.
- Singing can project an airborne spray of tiny droplets that: travel farther than 6 feet and hang in the air longer than the droplets resulting from talking in a normal voice. So we would not be able to sing as a congregation or assemble a choir although we will certainly provide music.
- Wearing masks will be necessary, even after the Governor's order expires, because we have many in our community who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, given underlying medical conditions and age.
- Entering and leaving the building will have to be monitored in order to help keep social distancing during the process.
- Children are not apt to be true to social distancing. There can be no hugging, even in the parking lot, except by family members living together.
- If we reconvene while only 25 people are allowed in the building, and we have two pastors, a musician, and a sound system operator, that limits attendees to 21. No one wants to be the one standing at the door telling the 22nd person who arrived that they cannot come in.

It is our responsibility as a church to ensure health and safety. While we are committed to getting back to in-person worship as soon as reasonably possible, as you can see, that time is not now based on the limitations listed above.

Enjoy our streaming services through the summer. Even after we restart in-person worship we will continue to offer virtual activities such as live streaming worship and Zoom meetings (e.g. Sojourners' Class). We will provide an update around Labor Day regarding when we will have the opportunity to worship in person again.

Sincerely,

Fred Robinson, Interim Senior Pastor

Fredrick@HolyCovenantUCC.org

Tom Magraw, Consistory President

TomM@HolyCovenantUCC.org

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, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins,
Meg Houlihan, Kathleen Smith

CHRISTMAS IN JULY OFFERING (Think Snow!)

Christmas in July (The Christmas Fund) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. At Holy Covenant, we gather this offering July so that it stands out. Or you could think of it as a reminder that cooler weather will eventually make its way to North Carolina. No matter what Christmas in July reminds you of, your gift will provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. You can make your donation through our website, the MyChurch app on your phone, or mail a check to the church earmarked for The Christmas in July Fund. Thank you so much for supporting this vital special offering.



TRANSITION TEAM – MISSION AND VISION

The Transition Team wants to extend our gratitude to everyone who responded to the Heritage Questionnaire. We had about 100 responses -- an excellent rate! The Team is now compiling the results, which will be an important part of the church profile we are preparing for the settled pastor search.



In this phase we ask you to please take time to share your perspectives using this brief online Mission and Vision Questionnaire. Anyone who would prefer a paper form may contact Phil Kaveler at pwkaveler@yahoo.com and provide your mailing address.

Mission and Vision Questionnaire <https://forms.gle/UaDoWkiMph3M5GJF7>

RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY'S MASK PROJECT

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped us meet our first goal of 250 masks! We are grateful to all who have commitments to this project!



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. Send your Communion or Passing of the Peace (sign) images to Lisa Cloninger for including in our slide shows.

lisacmsw@hotmail.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. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353>

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

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](#)

LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?

Julia Alvarez, author of the best selling *In the Time of the Butterflies* has just published a new book. *Afterlife* addresses the question: "What do we owe those in crisis in our families, including -- maybe especially -- members of our human family?"

SOC-UCC VOTER EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN

coordinated by Rev. John Myers (D.Min.)

Mission: To prepare all congregations to participate fully in upcoming local, state and national elections.

Goals:

- Achieve 100 percent voter registration of all members of the Southern Conference congregations.
- Achieve complete voter education of all members of Southern Conference congregations.
- Joining and [Utilizing UCC "Our Faith Our Vote" Resources.](#)



Spread the word about Election Protection Resources

The national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition of which the United Church of Christ is a member, was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Made up of more than 100 local, state and national partners, Election Protection works year-round to advance and defend the right to vote.

Election Protection provides Americans from coast to coast with comprehensive voting information on how they can make sure their vote is counted. If you have any questions about voting or encounter difficulty when attempting to cast your ballot call the Voter Helplines

- 866-OUR-VOTE (administered by the [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#))
- 888-Ve-Y-Vota (administered by the [NALEO Educational Fund](#)),
- 888-API-VOTE (administered by [APIAVote](#) & [Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC](#))

Throughout the election, our volunteers collect information to paint a picture of election irregularities. **Election Protection focuses on the voter - not on the political horse race - and provides guidance, information and help to any American, regardless of who that voter is casting a ballot for.**

ANNUAL GATHERING SAVE THE DATE

A Virtual, Unified Southern Conference Annual Gathering...has ENCA, EVA, and WNCA joining together to have Association Meetings and the Southern Conference Annual Gathering over two days, October 16-17, 2020.

Look for additional information and training in the coming months on how this never done before event will unfold. See you there!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jill & Danny Gregg, Tom & Kathy Habel, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Rick & Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Yvette Stewart Ross, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

Gretchen & Christ Calder (Martha Bomely), Jasmine Carter & Infant daughter (Fred Robinson), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), George Jongeling) Darline Warren, William Lorenz (Tom & Dianne Bayes), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Mike Reynard & Linda Matkins (Robert Shepherd), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Eileen Perry & family (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

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