



## Silent Meditation

“Moments of solitude with Mother Nature is sunshine to a soul.”

-Anthony Douglas Williams

“Lament challenges the church to acknowledge real suffering and plead with God for his intervention.”

-Soong-Chan Rah

“Every lament is a prayer; a statement of faith”

-Mark Vroegop



One: At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

All: Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.

Hymn 553

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

BALM IN GILEAD

*Refrain:* There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. *Refrain*

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

Hymn 503

"O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"

MARYTON

O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service true;  
Tell me your secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love.  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; let me be in closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,  
In peace that only you can give, with you, O Savior let me live.

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

LEMME

“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

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Dominic Ciciollo

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

He is mindful of his covenant forever,

of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,  
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,

to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan

as your portion for an inheritance.’

that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.

Praise the Lord!

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

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

Scripture 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            Jeremiah 8:18 -9:1            Melissa McQueen-Simmons

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,  
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people  
from far and wide in the land:

‘Is the LORD not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?’

(‘Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?’)

‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved.’

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people  
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of my poor people!

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

Melissa McQueen-Simmons

“A Lament for America”

Hymn 172

“Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”

GALILEE

Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea;  
Day by day that voice still calls us, saying, “Christian, follow me.

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than  
these.”

Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,  
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

Benediction

Melissa McQueen-Simmons

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

“Balm in Gilead”

arr. C. B. Putnam

## 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](mailto:Fredrick@HolyCovenantUCC.org)

Tom Magraw, Consistory President

[TomM@HolyCovenantUCC.org](mailto: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, Henry Hankins,  
Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith

**2Q2020 GIVING STATEMENTS & CORRECTION**

This week, the Giving Statements for a period of the first half of 2020 were distributed via email. Our ability to maintain our outreach and ministries continues due to your generosity. We are blessed beyond measure!

**\*Please note a correction to the Post Office Box address  
which was mistyped in the cover letter\***

Holy Covenant UCC  
PO Box **481285**,  
Charlotte NC 28269

With gratitude for your support in ministry,  
May God bless and keep each of you safe out ahead.

**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](mailto:pwkaveler@yahoo.com) and provide your mailing address.

**Mission and Vision Questionnaire** <https://forms.gle/UaDoWKiMph3M5GJF7>

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



**UCC Mental Health Network**

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

## 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?"



## **ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

The nonpartisan [League of Women Voters](#) is encouraging everyone to request a mail-in Absentee ballot now for the November election. Any registered voter may request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot - no excuse is needed.

Mail, deliver or email or fax your request today - here's the [form](#) and a list of the mailing addresses for county offices.

In Mecklenburg County: Send the completed Absentee Ballot Request form to Mecklenburg Board of Elections at PO Box 31788 Charlotte, NC 28231 -1788, or email it to [absentee@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:absentee@mecklenburgcountync.gov) or fax your request to 704-319-9722.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **Members**

Jim Hong and family in the death of his mother, Addie May Hong  
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, Terry Raley-Dennis, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Yvette Stewart-Ross, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor, Deb Winston

#### **Friends & Family Members**

Gretchen & Chris Calder (Martha Bomely) in the death of their son, Evan  
Robert (Aida Marcial), Jasmine Carter & Infant daughter (Fred Robinson) David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will 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**

**Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor**  
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