



Silent Meditation

Communication is an industry because naming is a powerful tool for accomplishing the desired ends of the economic, political, and religious rulers of society.”

-Letty M. Russell

“There can be no beloved community without a beloved economy.”

- Dr. Virgil A. Wood

“When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something.”

- John Lewis

Hymn 330

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

LET US BREAK BREAD

Let us break bread together on our knees. (2x)

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (2x) (R)

Let us praise God together on our knees. (2x) (R)

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Hymn 505

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

SWEET HOUR

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Maker’s throne
Let all my needs and wants be known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare
By your return, sweet hour of prayer!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21

Renee Brown

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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 321

"Break Now the Bread of Life"

BREAD OF LIFE

**Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me,
As you once broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page, I seek you, Lord;
My spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

**Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
As you once blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

Hebrew Scripture

Nehemiah 4:1-9

Fred Robinson

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he mocked the Jews. He said in the presence of his associates and of the army of Samaria, ‘What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore things? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish it in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish—and burnt ones at that?’ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, ‘That stone wall they are building—any fox going up on it would break it down!’ Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their taunt back on their own heads, and give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover their guilt, and do not let their sin be blotted out from your sight; for they have hurled insults in the face of the builders.

So we rebuilt the wall, and all the wall was joined together to half its height; for the people had a mind to work.

But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and the gaps were beginning to be closed, they were very angry, and all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. So we prayed to our God, and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

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

“Good Trouble: Rebuilding the Walls”

Fred Robinson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Invitation

Fred Robinson

Community of saints, beloved of God, we are invited to gather at the table of love, to feast on the dreams of God, to be renewed by the bread and wine, and to remember Christ’s sacrifice.

The table calls us as we are, from wherever we are, to be in solidarity with Christ, who lives and loves on the margins.

So let us come to the table, expectant, eager, and open to sharing in the rich blessings of heaven born from unexpected places, and people, and experiences.

In this meal, shared from home to home, may we remember the life, death, and resurrection of the One who still takes on flesh among us today.

Prayer of Consecration

Loving God, we thank you for this meal, a meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us on our journey and enable us to freely live into the persons you called us to be. Where any social norm or imbalance of power limit our ability to thrive, may we be a witness for Christ and pursue justice for all your people. Amen.

Words of Institution

“Eat This Bread”

TAIZE

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We have been fed. Each of our spirits have been united by the bread and the cup. May each of us feel the spirit of the Lord resting on us, renewing us, strengthening us, and giving us peace. Amen.

Closing Song

“Wade in the Water”

arr. D. Moore

Wade in the water. God’s gonna trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in white, God’s gonna trouble the water.

The leader looks like the Israelite, God’s gonna trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in red, God’s gonna trouble the water.

It looks like the band that Moses led, God’s gonna trouble the water.

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Postlude

“Wade in the Water (reprise)”

arr. D. Moore

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/>

Out of an abundance of caution for everyone's safety and wellbeing, today's live stream is composed of pre-recorded service elements.

Thanks to Brian Hankins for editing and compiling the elements into a cohesive worship experience.

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

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.

TRANSITION TEAM – MISSION AND VISION

The current Mission and Vision survey will be coming to a close. Thank you to all who have responded. Your input is important to the future of your church. 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.



You have just a few days remaining 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>

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.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?

On July 19, we received a powerful sermon on "The Audacity to Hope." Check it out on the church website if you missed it. If you'd like to read more about hope, here are some thought-provoking books:

The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear by Paul Rogat Loeb

Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities by Rebecca Solnit

Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy by Joanna Macy



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The nonpartisan [League of Women Voters](https://www.leagueofwomen.org/) 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 or fax your request to 704-319-9722.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Cheri & Keith Dennis in the death of Cheri's mother, Dorothy Underwood

Jim Hong and family in the death of his mother, Addie May Hong

Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Tina Dickens, 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, Pastor Fred Robinson and family, Daniel, Kyra and Jordan, 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), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor

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