



Silent Meditation

“The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it.”

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

- Proverbs 29:18

“Neither revolution nor reformation can ultimately change a society, rather you must tell a new powerful tale, one so persuasive that it sweeps away the old myths and becomes the preferred story, one so inclusive that it gathers all the bits of our past and our present into a coherent whole, one that even shines some light into the future so that we can take the next step... If you want to change a society, then you have to tell an alternative story.”

-Ivan Illich

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 9, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music “Be Thou My Vision” (SLANE) arr. J. Vogt

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 “As We Gather” M. Fay/T. Coomes

As we gather, may your Spirit work within us.

As we gather, may we glorify your name.

Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,

We'll be blessed because we came, O Lord;

We'll be blessed because we came.

* Call to Worship Dawn Simmons

One: When there are barriers that seem insurmountable, let the church be a place that inspires godly vision to empower the human spirit to rise above.

All: When those who are underserved feel weakened by their struggles, let this be a place of strength and encouragement.

One: When those who are injured seek belonging, let this be a place of family and togetherness,

All: When those who are injured seek revival, let this be a place of healing and rejuvenation.

One: When these are troubled times, let this be a place of tranquility.

All: When a safe haven is sought, let this be a place of peacefulness and refuge.

One: When the world rages and metes out injustice, let this be a place of imagination for righteousness.

All: Let this congregation remain a place where no vision is ever too large and no dream is ever too impossible.

Hymn

“Come! Live in the Light!”

WE ARE CALLED

**Come! Live in the Light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God.**

*We are called to act with justice;
We are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So hatred and violence will be no more. (Refrain)**

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love. (Refrain)**

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

SANCTUARY

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;
but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

By justice a king gives stability to the land,
but one who makes heavy exactions ruins it.

Whoever flatters a neighbor
is spreading a net for the neighbor's feet.

In the transgression of the evil there is a snare,
but the righteous sing and rejoice.

The righteous know the rights of the poor;
the wicked have no such understanding.

Scoffers set a city aflame,
but the wise turn away wrath.

If the wise go to law with fools,
there is ranting and ridicule without relief.

The bloodthirsty hate the blameless,
and they seek the life of the upright.

A fool gives full vent to anger,
but the wise quietly holds it back.

If a ruler listens to falsehood,
all his officials will be wicked.

The poor and the oppressor have this in common:
the Lord gives light to the eyes of both.

If a king judges the poor with equity,
his throne will be established forever.

When the wicked are in authority, transgression increases,
but the righteous will look upon their downfall.

Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint,
but happy are those who keep the law.

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

“Have Mercy on Me”

G. Gustafson

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.
According to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.
Wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin. (2x)**

Gospel Scriptures

Fred Robinson

Luke 4:18

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

Matthew 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

Matthew 28: 18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 23, 2020

Please join the Transition Team for a Zoom meeting on Sunday, August 23, 2020 beginning at 1:00 p.m. to work in groups using breakout sessions to define Holy Covenant's Core Values, Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Ministry Plan.

During the Zoom meeting on 8/23/20, we will be working to develop a self-image of Holy Covenant that is based on something other than current reality. This time will be for us to begin redefining Holy Covenant's sense of purpose and direction by determining what distinguishes Holy Covenant from other churches and organizations in the Charlotte, NC area.

Plan to join us by marking your calendar now.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

This group will take a two week break and resume on August 19th.

The new link for this class is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=QUNmS0dMdEV5K1BRd2VmMWpFQlVQT09>

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



SOJOURNERS CLASS RESUMES

-NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIBLE STUDY

The Sojourners Class is beginning the study of a new book, *Revolution of Values: Reclaiming Public Faith for the Common Good* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Please join us this Sunday, August 9th. We'll begin with Chapter 1 "Wade in the Water". The book is available on Amazon, Kindle, and Audible. Please contact Cheri Dennis at cherid@holycovenantucc.org or 704-519-6016 if you need a copy of the Introduction & Chapter 1. Here is a new Zoom Link to this class:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673409762?pwd=VnVGZDNTOTYtcnoycWJ6RTVkJF4UT09>.

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](#) 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

Friends & Family Members

Gretchen & Chris Calder (Martha Bomely) in the death of their son, Evan
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), Robert Marcial (Aida Marcial), 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
fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Interim Associate Pastor
cherid@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Jon Weddell, M. Div., Minister of Music
jon@holycovenantucc.org

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant
office@holycovenantucc.org

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810