

Holy Covenant

United Church of Christ



Silent Meditation

“Conversion, to be born again, or to receive salvation is a process of becoming more attuned to understanding the meaning of the kingdom of God here and now. When we become saved, we will understand that social and political justice are intimately connected to salvation and a born-again status. Individual salvation has, as a necessary correlate, the salvation of the community.”

–James H. Harris

Many of our churches have become cluttered. So cluttered that people have a difficult time encountering the simple and powerful message of Christ. So cluttered that many people are busy doing church instead of being the church.

–Thom Rainer

The Bible does not invite us into some otherworldly journey or a mere praise party for a private society of me, myself, and I. No, we are called to be a movement for wholeness in a broken world and to stand for justice, so help us God.

–William J. Barber

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

August 16, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music arr. C. B. Putnam
"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

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 Cheri Dennis
One: Jesus said: You are the light of the world.
All: **Let our light shine, giving glory to God.**
One: Do all things for the sake of the gospel.
All: **So may we share in the blessings of God.**
One: He called out: Whom shall I send?
All: **I answered: Here I am; send me.**

Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

D. Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

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)

Children’s Message

Cheri Dennis

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.

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-8

Terrence Hayes

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

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

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

Special Music

“Order My Steps”

Felicia Robinson

Gospel Scripture

John 13: 31-34

Fred Robinson

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

“A Mission and Vision Worth Pursuing”

Fred Robinson

Hymn

“We Are One in the Spirit”

ST. BRENDAN’S

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

*And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land. *(Refrain)*

We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride. *(Refrain)*

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response “Come! Live in the Light!”

WE ARE CALLED

*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.*

Postlude

“Make Me a Servant”

Kelly Willard

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, Dorrie Hankins, Henry Hankins,
Laura Hankins, Felecia Robinson, Kathleen Smith

READERS AND MUSICIANS FOR WORSHIP

If you'd like to share your talents remotely, interested readers should contact Laura Hankins, laura@hankins-clt.us; interested musicians should contact Kathi Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com.

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.

Core values are those values which Holy Covenant will never compromise and is willing to pay a price to uphold. These are described in behavioral terms. Many of you provided some core values when you completed the Mission and Vision questionnaire.

The Mission Statement grows out of the core values. It is the broad overarching purpose for the church's existence. It establishes why the work is done and is always just beyond our grasp.

The Vision Statement is what Holy Covenant will look like in one to three years. It defines the key results to be achieved and describes the kind of behaviors Holy Covenant must display to be successful.

A Ministry Plan describes the path by which Holy Covenant intends to reach its vision. It determines how things will be accomplished and includes resource priorities, organization structure and what issues get daily organizational attention.

Plan to join us by marking your calendar now.

MICHAEL G. BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP CHANGE IN CRITERIA

Due to exceptional circumstances this year, the criterion for the Brooks Scholarship has changed. This year, the scholarship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Please contact the office for an application at office@holycovenantucc.org. The application deadline is Aug. 23, 2020.

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

For any students in Mecklenburg County, Monday, August 17 is the first day of school. CMS and many charter schools are offering online learning. Some other districts are offering a mixture of online and in person classes. This creates many challenges, especially for students with special needs, one-income families, and those who are housing insecure. Online education also places an additional burden on employed parents. While working remotely, parents are expected to also be available to supervise remote learning, without missing a beat at work. For many families the work-life boundary has been obliterated. Essential workers still require safe, affordable child care.



A number of community partners are working to summarize and address community needs. How can Holy Covenant help? Several groups are recruiting online volunteer math and reading tutors. Another option is to support teacher or school supply lists. QEdConnect has created a very thorough website with a list of volunteer opportunities, as well as options for parents and learning pods to network. <https://www.qcedconnect.com>

I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might help even one student or family during this time.

Laura Hankins

BACK TO SCHOOL

LINK YOUR HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD NOW!

When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. There are NO LIMITS to how much a school can earn. Help the HT "Together in Education" program. Get connected today! VIC cards must be linked each year.



OTHER WAYS TO GET AND/OR GIVE SUPPORT

- Spread the word with families to fill out the free and reduced application form found [here](#). Students who qualify will get five lunches and breakfasts FREE each week.
- Contribute to the fund to provide meals through the CMS Foundation. <https://cms-foundation.org/donate>
- Spread the word that children new to CMS need to be enrolled as soon as possible. Families are urged NOT to wait until school starts next week to enrol.
- CMS is providing iPads (for the youngest students) or Chromebooks for all students and will also provide a free hotspot if needed. Share the word that if families need a hotspot, they should inform their school. If they still have a hotspot from the Spring, it should still work for now but may need to be "reloaded" at some point in the semester.
- You can also designate a gift to the CMS Foundation to support hotspots. <https://cms-foundation.org/donate>
- Become a volunteer reading tutor through Read Charlotte. <https://www.readcharlotte.org/HELPS/>

- If you can do insulation or drywall QC Family Tree could use help getting space ready for the Tiny School they are hosting. Email Mady McColm at madymccolm@gmail.com.
- Refugee Support Services is collecting used laptops to be reconfigured by E2D and given back to our Fruitful Friend Mentors to teach the adults in families about Digital Literacy. Laptops can be dropped off in the back parking lot of the Galilee Center (3601 Central Ave.) on Wednesday morning from 8:30am-9:30am.
- Lift up teachers, staff, administrators, students, families in prayer.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Due to a change in Pastor Fred's schedule, Bible Study will now resume Wednesday, September 2. 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 -NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to join the Sojourners Class on Sunday morning at 9:45 am via Zoom. We are currently discussing *Revolution of Values* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Questions, contact Cheri Dennis at cherid@holycovenantucc.org.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673409762?pwd=VnVGZDNTOEtycnoycWJ6RTVkJF4UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762

Passcode: 523903

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.



WISE Presents "COUPLES IN QUARANTINE" AUGUST 27

Please join us for our next WISE presentation on Thursday, August 27, 2020 from 7-8 p.m. Mike Yonkovic, Ph.D. will speak on "Couples in Quarantine: Quick Comments on this Unique Quandary." How is it going? Let's talk about what happens when lovmates spend ALL their time together. Sign up in advance appreciated by not required - Tom Magraw, tmagraw@aol.com.

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

Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Tina Dickens, Linn Finger, 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

Tom & Dianne Bayes in the death of Dianne's father, William Lorenz
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), 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