



Silent Meditation

"A theology of interdependence honors the value of all individuals, not by what they do, but by who they are, recognizing that each and every person contributes to the community by being, not by doing. Interdependence acknowledges not only our dependence on God and one another, but also God's dependence on us to be agents of God's healing compassion in the world." – Kathy Black

"The fragility and weakness of my body, I can handle. The fragility of the safety net is something I fear and worry about constantly." – Alice Wong

"I've come to believe that I did not have a disability, as it is common to say, but experienced disability in environments that could not accommodate and embrace my differences. . . . All of us, even the so-called normal, move in and out of states of ability and disability every day. It's our strengths, weaknesses, eccentricities and differences that define our humanity." – Jonathan Mooney

Here, O God, your servants gather, hand we link in hand;
 Looking toward our Savior’s cross, joined in love we stand.
 As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
 Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,
 Yet our hearts are one in God, one in love’s demands.
 In despair our hope appears, calling age and youth:
 Jesus, Teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.

Nature’s secrets open wide, changes never cease;
 Where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
 Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
 Jesus, Healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed, show us how love thrives,
 Help us as we work and pray, send us for our lives
 Truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife:
 Jesus, Leader, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

Children’s Message

Cheri Dennis

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Special Music

“Beautiful Things”
Hankins Family

M. Gungor

All this pain. I wonder if I'll ever find my way
 I wonder if my life could really change, at all
 All this earth. Could all that is lost ever be found?
 Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

You make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of the dust
 You make beautiful things
 You make beautiful things out of us

All around, Hope is springing up from this old ground
 Out of chaos life is being found in you

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new, You are making me new

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new, You are making me new

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 4: 6-8; 10-20

Cheri Dennis

Again, the Lord said to him, 'Put your hand inside your cloak.' He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. Then God said, 'Put your hand back into your cloak'—so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body— 'If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign.

But Moses said to the Lord, 'O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.' But he said, 'O my Lord, please send someone else.' Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, 'What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.'

Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, 'Please let me go back to my kindred in Egypt and see whether they are still living.' And Jethro said to Moses, 'Go in peace.' The Lord said to Moses in Midian, 'Go back to Egypt; for all those who were seeking your life are dead.' So Moses took his

wife and his sons, put them on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt; and Moses carried the staff of God in his hand.

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 551

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

PASS ME NOT

(Blind from infancy, Fanny Crosby wrote this and more than 9,000 other hymns.)

**Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry.
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.**

*Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry.
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.*

**Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief.
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. (R)**

**Trusting only in your merit, would I seek your face.
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace. (R)**

**Be the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me.
Not just here on earth beside me but eternally. (R)**

Gospel Lesson

Mark 6: 1-5

Fred Robinson

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, ‘Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.’ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured 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.

Sermon

“The Disabled God: A Theology of Interdependence” Fred Robinson

Hymn 391

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

NEW DIMENSIONS

In the midst of new dimensions in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young
Each a gift in your creation, Each a love song to be sung. (R)

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit Resurrect the church again. (R)

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Postlude

“Here, O My Lord”
(LANGRAN)

arr. L. Smith

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

UPDATE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

September 4, 2020

Dear Holy Covenant United Church of Christ community:

We very much look forward to being together in worship but, in good conscious, we can only take that step when we can do so safely. We miss worshipping and having fellowship together as a congregation. Quarantine has been hard on all of us. In the meantime, the COVID-19 Response Team has been thinking creatively about some outdoor gatherings such as a Vesper Service and a parking lot picnic. We will revisit these ideas when the Governor of North Carolina moves us to Phase 3 at which time more people will be allowed to gather. However, we have concluded that it is NOT yet time to return to in-person worship and will reassess that decision around Thanksgiving.

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. This means not being 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 this fall. 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, Bible Study and our periodic WISE meetings). We will provide an update before Thanksgiving regarding how we will celebrate Advent, what the New Year will look like, and 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/>

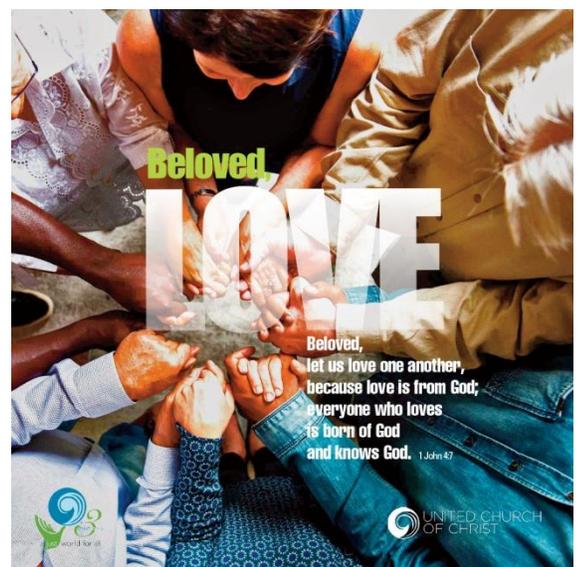
WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Dorrie Hankins, Henry Hankins,
 Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith, Felicia Robinson

STEWARDSHIP 2021

Beloved, let us love one another... (1 John 4:7)

October is a season of planning for the coming year, reflecting on the days behind us, a season to explore new leaders for this congregation, and a time of commitment to sustain and grow the church. Our theme for this year's Stewardship campaign is **Three**



Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation and Love of Justice. Martin Luther King once called love “the most durable power in the world.” As he explained, “Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.” At Holy Covenant, **We Choose Love**. Please support our church during this time by raising your hand to serve and/or submit your pledge through email or the church website at holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/.

REACH THE PASTOR

During this pandemic, Pastor Fred still keeps office hours. Although setting up an appointment to meet me in the office is not a possibility at this time, you can still arrange a meeting with me through Zoom or a regular phone call. I invite you to reach out if you have questions, just want to chat, catch up or to discuss a personal matter. If you wish to meet via Zoom, contact the church at 704-599-9810 and a meeting will be arranged. Or if you wish to reach me by phone, call 770-344-8002. The same goes for Pastor Cheri. Her contact number is 704-519-6016 and a Zoom meeting can be arranged with her as well.

NEW PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

Calling all 6th through 10th graders!! Hear ye, hear ye, parents and grandparents! A Confirmation class via Zoom will start Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 7 PM and continue every other week. Kids do not have to be regular attenders at Holy Covenant. We hope this will be a supportive discussion group. [Click here](#) for more information and a sharable invitation. Contact Jo Ann Jellison at joannjellison@yahoo.com or 804-937-1180.

CHARLOTTE'S C.R.O.P. WALK FOR HUNGER 2020

This year the annual [Charlotte Crop Walk](#) on October 11 will be a virtual walk, in which we can walk in our own neighborhood or nearest park, either alone or in a small group. The need is great this year. 25% of all donations will stay in Mecklenburg County and be split between Loaves & Fishes, Second Harvest Food Bank and Crisis Assistance Ministries. If you want to participate, please email or call Tina Dickens, taichitina@gmail.com / 704.965.7708. Donations can be made to the HC team online at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/TinaDickens>. If you prefer to mail a check, please send me an email and I will send you my address. Thank you in advance!



MISSIONS AND JUSTICE UPDATE

Our Missions and Justice team has been hard at work this Fall reviewing the many needs in our Charlotte community while identifying ways that we can continue to support ministries even while in virtual worship and fellowship. Through your generous offerings and the Donna Collins bequest, checks were mailed this week to Transcend Charlotte, Second Harvest Food Bank, Roof Above, Crisis Assistance Ministry, and the Church World Service/Charlotte CROP Walk. These organizations are very grateful and blessed by the commitment of Holy Covenant to be the hands and feet of Christ during this time apart.

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY

We have completed our September distribution with much success. Contributions from Presbyterian Women, and MAP exceeded \$2500, and with your help we are approaching \$3000. We are well on the way to our goal of supporting this ministry through December 2020. Donations, in any amount, can be designated by visiting holycovenantucc.org/give-2/ and choosing Diaper Distribution Ministry under the Designated Gifts Fund. Many thanks to all who have supported this ministry!



TRANSITION TEAM: REPORT ON THE HERITAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

As the Transition Team continues our work, we would like to share with the congregation a [summary report of the responses](#) to the Heritage Questionnaire sent out in June and July. This report will inform our work in drafting the church profile. Please see the Heritage Questionnaire Summary Report, with thanks from the Transition Team to all who responded.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15PM

All are welcomed to join our weekly Bible Study through the [Book of Acts](#). We'll explore how this text speaks to us today.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=QUNmS0dMdEV5K1BRd2VmMWpFQIIVQT09>

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



SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIBLE STUDY SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

All are invited to join the Sojourners Class on Sunday mornings 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=VnVGZDNTOEtycnoycWJ6RTVktjF4UT09>

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.



OTHER WAYS TO GET AND/OR GIVE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- <https://www.wfae.org/post/charlotte-talks-digital-divide-existed-covid-19-now-its-crisis-level>
- Classroom Central has a number of remote volunteer opportunities. <https://classroomcentral.org/remote-volunteer-opportunities/>
- 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.

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to prayers@holycovenantucc.org.

Members

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, 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, Anita Taylor, Ed Vickery

Friends & Family Members

The Family of Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin)

Gretchen & Chris Calder (Martha Bomely), 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), Michael Morse (Beth & Ed Sharp), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Nick Pernice (Dawn Simmons), Vernon & Andrea Powell (Robert Shepherd), Darrell & Jackie Reichert, Jeff (Diane Neese), Lauren Reisenberger (Ida Mangione), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), John & Marisa Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor

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Rev. Cheri Dennis, Interim Associate Pastor

cherid@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Jon Weddell, M. Div., Minister of Music

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Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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