



Silent Meditation

"Never lose a holy curiosity."
~ Albert Einstein

"Why indeed must 'God' be a noun? Why not a verb - the most active and dynamic of all."
~ Mary Daly

"The basic fact is that Christianity as it was born in the mind of this Jewish teacher and thinker appears as a technique of survival for the oppressed."
~ Howard Thurman

"The glory of God [is] humanity fully alive."
~ Rita Nakashima Brock & Rebecca Parkera

"When they have contemplated the world, human beings have always experienced a transcendence and mystery at the heart of existence."
~ Karen Armstrong

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

October 18, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music "Glory of God" arr. M. Jordan

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 "You Are My Hiding Place" M. Ledner

You are my hiding place; You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you.

I will trust in you.

Let the weak say, "I am strong in the strength of the Lord."

* Call to Worship Cheri Dennis

One: Sisters, brothers and siblings, we are loved by God.

Many: The God of heaven and earth knows us by name and answers our cries for help.

One: Magnificent and Holy One, as we make our way in this world, may we long to know you better as we search for signs that you are with us.

Many: Give us a glimpse of your glorious presence and show us your ways guiding us in the time of trouble.

One: May our lives ring out the marvelous message of your goodness, mercy and your love.

All: We have come to worship the one whose image and glory is imprinted with in us.

Stewardship Moment Anne Hayes

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
 Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
 Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
 Not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
 Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
 Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving—to both great and small;
 In all life you're living, the true life of all;
 We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
 Then wither and perish—but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
 Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
 All praise we now render as your angels do:
 In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Children's Message

Cheri Dennis

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Hymn

“Near to the Heart of God”

MCAFEE

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
 A place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
 Hold us, who wait before you, near to the heart of God.*

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God.
 A place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. (R)

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,
 A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. (R)

While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfil the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

'Lord, who has believed our message,

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'

And so they could not believe, because Isaiah also said,

'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart,

so that they might not look with their eyes,

and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.'

Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke about him. Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

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

"Baruch Hashem Adonai"

D. Rodgers/T. Walker

(Translation: Blessed be the name of the Lord)

Who am I to be part of your people, the ones that are called by your name?

Could I be chosen as one of your own, could it be that our blood is the same?

How can a stranger, a remnant of nations belong to the royal line?

You showed your grace when the branches were broken, and I grafted into the vine.

Baruch Hashem Adonai. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

How could you show me such bountiful mercy by taking the life of the Lamb?

Your love is greater than I can imagine; I bless you with all that I am.

Praise to you, Jesus, the veil has been parted, and what once was secret is known.

Now I can cry to you, Abba, Creator, and praise you as one of your own.

Sermonic Text

Exodus 33: 12-23

Fred Robinson

Moses said to the Lord, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight." Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.'

The Lord said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.' Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The Lord"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' And the Lord continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

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

Show Me Your Glory

Fred Robinson

Hymn

"We Are God's People"

SYMPHONY

**We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of God's Spirit, established by God's Word.
Our cornerstone is Christ alone and strong in him we stand:
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.**

**We are God's loved ones, the bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured.
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.**

**We are the body of which the Lord is head,
Called to obey Christ, now risen from the dead.
God wills us be a family diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God and so shall God's work on earth be done.**

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response

NEW DIMENSIONS

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.

Postlude

“God Hides My Soul”

KIRKPATRICK

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 worshiping 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:

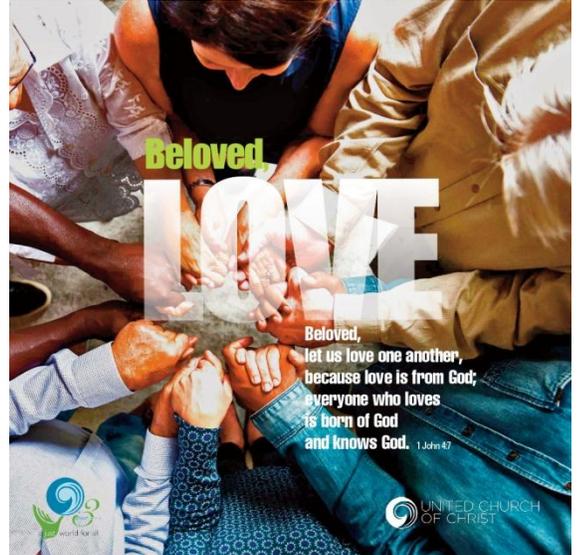
Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Dorrie Hankins,
Henry Hankins, Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith

STEWARDSHIP 2021

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

As our Stewardship campaign continues, please prayerfully consider how you can to support your church. The work of Holy Covenant continues because of the generous financial and volunteer support from our congregation. Because of you, our mission of sharing God's love continues. Thank you to all who have already submitted their pledges.

Pledges can be made by emailing the church office or the church website at holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/.



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES - YOUR INPUT IS WELCOMED

On November 1, All Saints' Day, we want to honor those who came before, led, loved, and inspired us. Please send in a picture or pictures (or just their names if you don't have a picture) of people in your life who you want to remember, and we will call their names and show their photos during the live streamed service on Sunday, November 1.

Send pictures and names, either via regular mail to the church office (PO Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269) or via email to kathleenie53@msn.com by Wednesday, October 28.

LET NATURE REPLENISH YOU!

Research shows that time in nature is very positive for our mental health. Nature is complex and so absorbs our attention; what a lovely antidote to much of the noise around us now. When we're in natural settings our blood pressure and heart rate slow and metabolic processes regulate. And on a deep level we have a sense of "home," since for most of our time as a species we have evolved and lived on the land. Given that we're a social species, if we can share that time in nature with friends, so much the better.

If you've been missing time at church, including contact with friends and time in our lovely natural setting, here is an opportunity for you:

A labyrinth walk will occur on Thursday, October 22 at 11 AM led by Sally Duffy. Participation is limited to 6, although exceptions will be made for family members who come together. Since we will have to pass each other fairly closely at times, masks are required. The labyrinth is behind the church, just inside the woods.

Register by calling Sally at 704-650-7385, however, registration is not necessary.



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.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15PM

All are welcomed to join our weekly Bible Study through the [Book of Acts](#). We will continue looking at Acts 9 as Paul begins his work as an Apostle. We will also look at the scandal of Gentile inclusion as the work of God expands. How do these events parallel with events of our own time? Join us for the discussion. We'll explore how this text speaks to us today.

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



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. For the next four weeks we'll be taking a look at the book of Ezekiel from the Hebrew Scriptures. Ezekiel was a prophet of God like no other! This coming Sunday we'll explore chapters 1-24. Here's the link to the class:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673409762?pwd=VnVGZDNT0EtycnoycWJ6RTVkJTJF4UT09>

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.



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

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), 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)

REACH THE PASTORS

During this pandemic, Pastor Fred and Pastor Cheri are keeping office hours, though maybe not at the church. You can arrange a personal meeting through Zoom or a regular phone call. Have questions? Just want to chat, catch up? Discuss a personal matter. Call us! Pastor Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002 or Pastor Cheri Dennis 704-519-6016.

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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