



Silent Meditation

"For centuries the church has confronted the human community with role models of greatness. We call them saints . . . ones so possessed by an internal vision of divine goodness that they give us a glimpse of the face of God in the center of the human.

They give us a taste of the possibilities of greatness in ourselves."

— Joan D. Chittister

"I am reminded of the biblical use of the term saint in the book of Acts. That it applies to each of us. All who are attempting to imitate the Christ in their lives merit the title of 'saint.' Some do it more fully than others and are willing to let go of more to get the job done."

— Matthew Fox

"Mysterious Source of Love, moving within and between and among us; upholding and connecting all: the living, the dead, and the generations yet to come.

We give thanks for the web of all creation, strands interwoven.
And for the gifts of love, which can never be ungiven or unraveled."

— Molly Housh Gordon

Today, we dedicate our service in memory of...

Donna Collins

Uncle Wayne

Mark Andes

Michael Taylor

Joseph Ciciollo

Jean McCoy

Harold & Billie Smith

Ray & Lorine Reichert

Michael Houlihan

Virgil Jongeling Stewart

Mason & Sarah Sullivan

Carroll Belcher

Catherine Phan-thi-Hoa

Francoise Bonno Lloyd Benton

Susan Bennett Stiles

Karen Griffin

Paul Bomely

Rita Kate VanOrsdal

Virgil & Elizabeth Hoff

Hazel Lorraine Phillips

Deb Ross

Kathlynn Miller

Dorothy & Carl Underwood

Faye McLester

Betty Torrence

David Kelly

Isley Mae Whitfield

Garnett Phibbs

Shirley Schroeder

Dean & Datie Belcher

Janet & Joe Hawkins

Spencer & Genevieve Bonno

Ella Hadley

Harlene Rudisill

Moses Taylor

Thomas J. & Helen A. Dennis

Evan Calder

Bonnie Roberta Paridaen

Clare Dot Shiels

Dr. Harry Edward Vickery, Sr.

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL SAINTS/SOULS SUNDAY

November 1, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music “Shall We Gather at the River?” Lowry/Evans
(Songs in this service are used by Permission. CCLI License #11439355; CSPL164710)

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 “Spirit of the Living God” D. Iverson

Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me,
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me;
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me.

* Call to Worship Cheri Dennis

One: We remember, O God...

Many: **The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.**

One: We remember, O God...

Many: **The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.**

One: We remember, O God...

Many: **The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.**

One: We remember, O God...

Many: **The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection: shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living, articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.**

One: We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.

Many: **Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...let us worship God with joy!**

Stewardship Moment

The Hankins Family

Hymn 299

“For All the Saints”

SINE NOMINE

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
‘mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Children’s Message

Cheri Dennis

Remembering Our Saints

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Special Music

“Wanting Memories”

Ysaye M. Barnell

Lisa Cloninger, Judah Jones, Kathi Smith, Vocalists

Old Testament Psalm 43

Kevin Edwards-Knight

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!

For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?

O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my 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.**

Hymn 360 "Thuma Mina" (*Send Me, Lord*)

THUMA MINA

Thuma mina, thuma mina, thuma mina, Somandla.

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.

Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.

Thuma mina, thuma mina, thuma mina, Somandla.

New Testament

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Fred Robinson

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

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

“You Are Surrounded”

Fred Robinson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Fred Robinson

One: We gather at this table, God’s table;

Many: The table has been set long before we were born.

One: There are places for all who have gone before us,

Many: We take their hands as we approach to be received.

One: You are welcome at this table, Christ’s table.

ALL: The faithful ones are gathered with us from all generations. We lift up the memories of loved ones we no longer see, we open our hearts to the presence of loved ones who are with God, for God is present with us. This is the table of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of restoration. This is the table for all the saints of God.

One: We lift our hearts in gratitude and unity as together we pray,

ALL: Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Music during Communion

Prayer after Communion

In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and these people, we give ourselves to you. Lead us forward to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us. And thus Living God, may we live as your saints in this world. Amen.

Hymn

“Gather Us In”

GATHER

**Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones**

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response

Gather

**Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones**

Postlude

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

D. Akers

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, Henry Hankins,
Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith

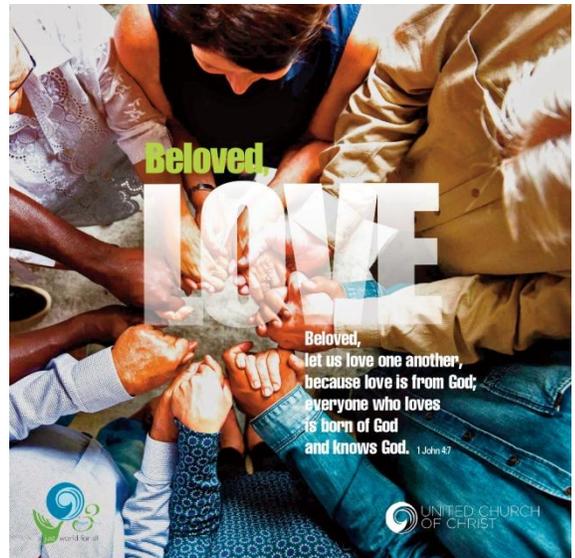
*Please note new office hours in November and December:
Tuesday through Friday, 8am-4pm*

STEWARDSHIP 2021

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

As our Stewardship campaign enters our last week, please prayerfully consider supporting our church by raising your hand to serve and/or submitting your pledge through email or the church website at holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/. With your help, our mission of sharing God's love will continue. Thank you to everyone for sharing your time, talents and treasure.

You may email your pledge to the church office at office@holycovenantucc.org, mail the pledge card to the church (see address below), or submit your pledge online through the church website at holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/.



**FROM THE EVERYDAY TO THE PROFOUND:
GRIEF IN THE MIDST OF COVID
NOVEMBER 5 AT 7PM**

Join us for a discussion led by Rebecca MacNair-Semands, Ph.D., CGP. We will explore the types of losses we are facing during these uncertain times, broadly defined. Discussions include how we can name and respond to our grief, and what it may mean for our sense of self and the world around us. Ways to heal with each other through social connections and identifying personal strengths will also be explored.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85476202497?pwd=UGtzaDI2c24vMk9nV0dDRGh0dVlk2UT09>

CONFIRM NOT CONFORM: A DISCUSSION GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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](#). Wednesday, November 4th, we will pick up on Acts 10 and the story of Peter and Cornelius and the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles.

ZOOM Link:

<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

Come join us via Zoom at 9:45 on Sunday morning for our Sojourners Class. 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 33-48. In these chapters, Ezekiel turns his focus to hope - hope for the Hebrew exiles in Babylon, hope that they will return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. [Click here to join.](#)

Or use 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.



If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to

prayers@holycovenantucc.org.

Micheal Hall and Dickie Lamm in the death of Micheal's mother, Creola Hall.

Diane Burleson in the death of her mother, and the death of her son.

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Karen Long, Von & Melissa McQueen-Simmons, Irene Mikkelson, Rick & Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Alice & Sally Phelan-Young, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Yvette Stewart-Ross, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor, Ed Vickery

Friends & Family Members

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), Kevin & Tracy Reed (Dawn Simmons), 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 PASTOR

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
fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

Rev. 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

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Tuesday through Friday, 8am-4pm*

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