



Silent Meditation

“Any place is sacred ground,
for it can become a place of encounter with the divine Presence.”

— David Steindl-Rast

“We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that [God] should
bother to call us by name, our mouths wide open at [God’s] love,
bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground.”

— Brennan Manning

“We stand before a burning bush whenever other human beings share with us
something of their relationship with God or something of the movements of their
hearts. In such moments may we always realize that we stand on holy ground.”

— Margaret Silf

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 31, 2021, 10:55 AM

Prelude "Basque Lullaby" arr. K. Blackwell-Plank
Kristen Andes

BRIAN: from 07.26.20 prelude

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 "Holy Ground" Beatty/Davis

BRIAN: same as last week.

This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground.
For our God is present and where God is is holy. (2x)

We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

* Call to Worship Fred Robinson

***"Afflicting spirit" is a term taken from The Message, translation of Mark 1: 21-28 by Eugene Petersen*

One: Friends in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?

Many: **We bring hope for health and wholeness.**

One: What afflictions do you bring to worship? Physical pain?

Many: **From illness and injury.**

One: Emotional pain?

Many: **From sad and scary life situations.**

One: Mental pain?

Many: **From dis-ease of many kinds.**

One: With all of these afflictions, it's a miracle that any of us have made it to worship this morning!

Many: **But where else would we be? We yearn to know God's powerful love and to know that wholeness is possible.**

One: In today's gospel, a person with an "afflicting spirit" * interrupts Jesus

Many: And Jesus sets the person free.
One: And where does the miracle of this story and our stories begin?
Many: When we bring all of who we are--Hopeful, afflicted, bold—
into relationship with the Divine.
One: So come, let us enter this sanctuary with our whole selves
Many: Hopeful, afflicted and bold
All: Come, let us worship!

Hymn 3 “Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works” LACQUIPARLE

BRIAN: from last week

**Many and great, O God, are your works, Maker of earth and sky;
Your hands have set the heavens with stars,
Your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word the waters were formed; deep seas obey your voice.**

**Grant unto us communion with you, O star abiding One;
Come unto us and dwell with us: With you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with you.**

Children’s Message Fred Robinson

Pastoral Prayer Fred Robinson

Special Music “What the World Needs Now” B. Bacharach

BRIAN: from 02.16.20 (after children’s message)

Psalm Reading Psalm 111 JoAnn Jellison

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is God’s work, and God’s righteousness endures forever. God has gained renown by God’s wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. God provides food for those who fear God; God is ever mindful of God’s covenant. God has shown God’s people the power of God’s works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The works of God’s hands are faithful and just; all God’s precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. God sent redemption to God’s people; God has commanded God’s covenant forever. Holy and awesome is God’s name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.

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 553

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

BALM IN GILEAD

BRIAN: from 07.26.20 opening hymn

CHERI: or Change My Heart, O God (?) from 07.26.20

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

**Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (R)**

**If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. (R)**

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:21-28

Cheri Dennis

They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.’ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

“Name that Demon!”

Cheri Dennis

Hymn

“Canticle of the Turning”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

BRIAN: from last week

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.*

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn. (R)

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around. (R)

Benediction

Cheri Dennis

Benediction Response

New Dimensions

BRIAN: from last week

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

“Balm in Gilead”

arr. C. B. Putnam

BRIAN: from 07.26.20 postlude

(Songs in this service are used by Permission. CCLI License #11439355; CSPL164710)

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

UPDATE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

After further consultation with our staff and church leadership, Sunday Worship will be live-streamed every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. until further notice. Please know the leadership of Holy Covenant will be closely monitoring developments and will keep you informed of future decisions. Our greatest priority is the safety and well-being of our neighbors and members of our congregation. Our actions impact the world around us so practicing physical distancing is not only necessary but it is an act of kindness and love. To paraphrase a verse from the Talmud, "Anyone who saves one life it is as if she has saved the whole world."

COVID-19 Updates from Consistory President, Jo Ann Jellison

It is my pleasure to serve as Consistory President during 2021. What challenges we have ahead of us!

I have asked Aline Sullivan, our vivacious pharmacist member employed with CVS, to update us on plans for the roll-out of COVID vaccine to pharmacies. We will share when information on how to make an appointment as soon as it's available..

Mecklenburg County Public Health has released new restrictions for the next three weeks. [Click here](#) to access the directive. In response, Holy Covenant will pre-record all parts of the worship service and will suspend worship leaders meeting in person for the near future. These steps we must take to optimize our health are tiring and patience is wearing thin, but it is important and, I hope, short-lived.

Please take care of yourselves. You are so important to the world.

Blessings,
Jo Ann

LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO?

Check out the church events calendar online at

<http://holycovenantucc.org/events/>

Ministry Team meetings, Covenant Group gatherings, virtual classes and bible studies and more!

Both Atrium and Novant healthcare systems offer online and telephone contacts for vaccination appointments. Some have succeeded in getting appointments. Sometimes appointment time slots are filled. If you are having trouble and would like someone to work with you, contact Jo Ann Jellison at (804)937-1180 or joannjellison@yahoo.com.

<https://atriumhealth.org/about-us/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine>

HC vs. COVID-19:

Hi! I'm Aline Sullivan, a church member and local pharmacist in Charlotte. You may recognize me as the Mom of two rambunctious boys who tried to burn the sanctuary down last year when lighting the Advent candles.

Over the last 3 weeks, I've been travelling to nursing homes across the state, giving COVID-19 shots to residents & staff, as part of phase 1A. Phase 1B has begun!

Depending on where you live, you may be able to go to a clinic site (ie, Bojangles' Coliseum or county health dept) with, or maybe even without, an appointment. However, at least 2 national pharmacy chains will soon be offering another choice: appointment-only COVID shots. Very similar to the procedure for getting a flu-shot in-store, you will be able to go online and schedule your appointment for a FREE no-cost COVID shot.

This CVS page is a great resource, and will probably be the gateway to making appointments:

<https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine?icid=coronavirus-lp-vaccine-hero-rb>

CDC recommendations for vaccine allocation*	
PHASE	ELIGIBLE GROUPS
1a	Health care workers Long-term care facility residents
1b	Frontline essential workers People 75 years and older
1c	People ages 65–74 years People ages 16–64 years w/ high-risk medical conditions Essential workers (not previously recommended for vaccination)
2	People 16 years and older (not previously recommended for vaccination)



Please keep practicing the 3 Ws - wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands - until everyone has a chance to get vaccinated.

2020 ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

Printed statements had been mailed last week. If you have questions, or don't receive your report, please contact the church office. We are grateful for all your gifts, big and small!



"Comfort food" style choices

Electronic methods available for your offerings

Schedule offerings, one time or recurring, through your bank's online payment system. Many financial institutions offer free services to its customers.

Mailing a check? Please use this secure address:
Holy Covenant UCC
PO Box 481285
Charlotte NC 28269

Donate on our website
HolyCovenantUCC.org,
via Subsplash Wallet®* or PayPal®*.
*Fees may apply to these types of transactions

GIVE TODAY

For gifts of stock or additional funding opportunities, please contact the church office
office@holycovenantucc.org or 704-599-9810

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Contributions may be tax deductible.

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate



MASK PROJECT CONTINUES THROUGH SPRING

The Racial Justice and Equity team wishes to commit to making/ supplying masks through April for organizations that are in need. Those interested can help with either purchased masks, or making homemade masks. Our goal is 100 masks per month. Those wishing to sew - patterns are available. Contact Selma Taylor, meshtaylor@twc.com for more information. We have supplied over 780 masks to our local community to date! Most recently, masks have been delivered to our Bridge for Kids, Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, and Dove's Nest. Our former Associate Pastor, Barbara Thomas, is the Program Director for Dove's

Nest, a cost-free women's addiction recovery program here in Charlotte. All three organizations were very grateful for the masks.

We all know that with poor software in our computer, there is always going to be a poor outcome. Our cognitions or self-talk, that is, what we tell ourselves, is similar regarding outcome. If

we tell ourselves negative things, such as 'I am no good', 'I am unlovable', 'everything in my life is crap', 'things will never improve', the emotional and behavioral outcomes are also going to be negative. We will feel depressed or anxious emotionally and our behavior will mirror these emotions. We will not feel motivated to get off the couch and take a walk that will help us feel better or energized, we will eat unhealthy food or snacks rather than spend the time and energy to make better nutritional choices.

What's really sad is that most such negative cognitions are by definition, inaccurate. A lot of things in someone's life may be challenging and difficult, but there is always something that is not and there is always something good. There is always some good in everyone, and no one is no good.

This issue of cognition can also result from being depressed and depression can lead to negative or depressive thinking which is, of course, negative and inaccurate and only furthers the depression. There is a tendency to assume the worst case scenario which seldom occurs. Anxiety can also tend to generate anxious cognitions, such as 'what if's': 'what if my spouse is dying in a car wreck on the way home from work, since s/he is 10 minutes late already'. There are innumerable 'what if's' that we can plague ourselves with. This is anxiety based thinking which only serves to make anxiety and mood worse.

Focusing on actual facts with accurate thinking and thoughts can combat this negative and inaccurate cognitive tendency and improve mood, behavior, and outlook. Please note that this is not positive thinking; it is simply accurate thinking. By the way, it is notable that most people who characterize themselves as 'realists' tend to be more negative and less accurate in their thinking.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM, WEDNESDAYS 12:15PM

Join the discussion as we delve into the beginnings of Paul's missionary journey in the book of Acts. Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89642315861>

Meeting ID: 896 4231 5861



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

The Sojourners Class is reading and discussing the Rev. Dr. William Barber's book [The Third Reconstruction; How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear](#). This Sunday we'll be discussing the Appendix- Fourteen Steps Forward Together, and the Afterward by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. We'll also be looking at the Poor People's Campaign Policy Priorities.

www.poorpeoplescampaign.org.

Our next exploration will be on the Book of Ruth. The study guides have been ordered and should be in soon. For more information, please contact Cheri Dennis (704-519-6016, cherid@holycovenantucc.org).

[Click here to join the Zoom meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762 Passcode: 523903

REACH THE PASTORS

Pastor Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002, fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

Pastor Cheri Dennis 704-519-6016, cherid@holycovenantucc.org

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Cheryl Milam and family in the death of her husband, Rick; Meg Houlihan & Tom Lannin in the death of Meg's mother, Margaret Houlihan; The family and friends of Yvette Stewart-Robinson; Melissa McQueen-Simmons and family in the death of her aunt, Denise McGill
Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Marina Luckhoo and family in the death of her father-in-law, Roger Patterson; Joy Johnson and family in the death of her father, Aaron Johnson; Jack Saunders and family in the death of his son, Patric Saunders (Jim Dwiggin); Joyce Lambert and family in the death of her husband, Royce Lambert (Kathleen Wagner)

Linda Angstrom (Beth Sharp), Dana Bennett-Burch (Kathleen Wagner), Sharon Cevrier (Kathleen Wagner), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Grady & Pat Judd (Will Judd), Linda Lawyer (Sally Duffy), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Linda Matkins (Robert Shepherd), Caroline "Kitten" Moser (Joy Johnson), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Jessie Pernice (Dawn Simmons), Vernon & Andrea Powell (Robert Shepherd), Darrell & Jackie Reichert, Jeff (Diane Neese), Lauren Reisenberger (Ida Mangione), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

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

Mailing address: PO Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269
3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510
www.holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810