



Silent Meditation

"The Easter message tells us that our enemies—sin, the curse, and death—are beaten. Ultimately they can no longer start mischief. They still behave as though the game were not decided, the battle not fought; we must still reckon with them, but fundamentally we must cease to fear them anymore."

—Karl Barth

"God has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

"Wondering if love really could save all the people public policy forgot."

—Kiese Laymon

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
EASTER ~ RESURRECTION SUNDAY

April 4, 2021; 10:55 AM

Prelude "Christ Is Alive" (Truro) Jon Weddell
arr. L. Larson

Welcome and Announcements Fred Robinson
and Offertory Invitation

One: This is the day of resurrection, the day of new creations!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Introit "Praise God's Holy Name" K. HAMPTON

Words of Preparation Cheri Dennis

One: You have turned our mourning into dancing!

You have taken away our funeral clothes and re-clothed us in joy,
so that our whole being—body, mind and soul—might sing
praise to you and not be silent.

**Many: Gracious God, for Christ your Son, we will give thanks to you
forever!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Many: CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

One: The shadows have been vanquished!

Many: THE BRILLIANT LIGHT OF HOPE HAS COME!

One: Come let us worship and celebrate the Good News!

All: ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! AMEN!!

Hymn 233 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" EASTER HYMN

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God. (*Refrain*)

O Christ, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. (*Refrain*)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. (*Refrain*)

Prayer of Confession

Fred Robinson

One: Hope of the world, you call us together so that even in this day of celebration we might confess all that yet imprisons us. We have life, and the power to live it, from you, O God. God of new life, hear our prayers:

All: Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become “Easter People,” people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world.

Silent Prayer

Sung Response

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

TAIZÉ

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Fred Robinson

One: Friends of the Living God, Easter is about new life bursting free from the most deadly restrictions. Receive the remarkable gift of new beginnings, which the forgiveness of the Living Christ makes freely available. Let nothing detain you in guilt, nothing restrain you from accepting this bonus of new life. It is here in abundance!

Many: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Sung Response

GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Christ, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end, Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

Children's Message

Cheri Dennis

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Cheri Dennis

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

Many: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Special Music

“Here's One”

arr. M. Hayes

Lisa Cloninger, Jon Weddell

Gospel Lesson

John 20:1-9

Fred Robinson

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

Many: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"The Rest of the Story"

Fred Robinson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. We who have been wandering find a place here. Here with bread and wine we are welcomed by our true host, the Living Christ. May those who are unsure find their place today. May those who have forgotten, rediscover joy in this sacramental welcome.

Many: Like the women who stumbled toward the tomb, we know the experience of great obstacles blocking our entrance to hope; of wandering blinded by grief and self-absorption. On this wondrous morning we are reminded that no rock, no obstacle, no impossibility can match the capacity of God's astonishing love: "He's not here, he's risen," the angel said.

One: The Living One is here!

Many: God's Spirit is with us.

One: Lift up your hearts!

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Living One our Savior;

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Word becomes flesh, flesh becomes bread, bread becomes body, body becomes word.

Many: Word becomes flesh, we remember you in bread and wine, body and blood, broken so that we, with all creation, may be made whole. Through your death, the power of fear is destroyed; through your resurrection, the power of hope is restored.

One: Together we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take, eat: This is my body, broken for you." In like manner, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my life blood, which is poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins." Remembering this boundless love, we offer our praise and proclaim our faith:

All: Christ was born. Christ lived, loved and died. Christ is now risen! Christ rises again and again in our lives!

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

Many: Amen.

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All things are ready. Let us eat and drink together.

Prayer after Communion

All: May all we do be in response to new life. May the love of the cross, the power of the resurrection, and the presence of the Living God lead us forward. May the Spirit of God give new strength to all our living. Alleluia, amen.

Hymn

“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name”

COME SHARE THE LORD

We gather here in Jesus’ name.
Christ’s love is burning in our hearts like living flame.
For through Christ’s sacrifice the whole wide world unites.
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

Christ joins us here and breaks the bread.
Our God who pours the cup is risen from the dead.
The one we love the most is now our gracious host.
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

We are now a family of which our God is Head.
Though unseen, Christ meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We’ll gather soon, in glory rise.
We’ll see the wonder of our God and of our Christ.
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait.
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response
Pre-recorded 04.12.20 end

“Total Praise”
arr. P. F. Simms

R. Smallwood

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength; you are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.

Postlude

“Up from the Grave He Arose”
arr. W. Hornibrook

CHRIST AROSE

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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

At this time, with 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."

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

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

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

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.



"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

Try the **My Church App**, download it here!
<http://customchurchapps.com/my-church-app/>

Find the **Give** button at the bottom of the home page, that will allow you to make a one time, or recurring contribution of any amount, and designate where those funds are to be used.

We will be adding new features to the My Church App. Check it out!



REACH THE PASTORS

Pastor Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002, frecrik@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

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia Simpson, Lloyd Spencer, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Louis & Bonnie (Kathleen Wagner), Linda Angstrom (Beth Sharp), Cecelia Ciciollo (Dominic Ciciollo), Sally Cloninger (Lisa Cloninger), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), Pauline Jones and James & Neisy Williams (Jeff Edwards-Knight), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Linda Matkins (Robert Shepherd), Nevin Milan (Kathleen Wagner), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Vernon & Andrea Powell (Robert Shepherd), Darrell & Jackie Reichert (Diane Neese), Lauren Reisenberger (Ida Mangione), Kyle Simmons (Dawn Simmons), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), Deborah Wingard (Melissa Noll)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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