



Silent Meditation

Easter is always a surprise. Whether Easter meets us in the bustle of busy-ness, or in the deep surges of grace overturning tragedy in our lives, or in the celebration of the eucharist, or in the world with its tsunamis, earthquakes, assassinations, tornadoes, and wars, Easter is always a surprise. And it's the kind of surprise ~ thank God ~ that invites, even shocks, us into waking up, to having our eyes pried open, to recognizing that the world in which we fell asleep no longer exists.

~ Joel B. Green

“We know how to bring the economy back to life,
but what we don't know is how to bring people back to life.”

~ Akufo Addo

“The walk with the risen Christ is an ongoing process of having our anxiety transformed in faith, and our despair transformed in hope. While our anxious, despairing world is inevitably self-destructive, the church alternatively lives in buoyant faith and daring hope that issues forth in an emancipated life in the world.”

~ Walter Brueggemann

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2021, 11am

Prelude "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Fred Robinson
and Offertory Invitation

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Gathering Music "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" SOJOURNER

I want Jesus to walk with me. (2x)

All along my pilgrim journey,

Oh, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Call to Worship

One: God of the resurrection, open our eyes to new possibilities.

Many: Even when we struggle to see the good news in the face of poverty, injustice, conflict, and woundedness.

One: God of the resurrection, open our eyes to the risen Christ.

Many: Even when our hearts hurt and we struggle to find hope to get us through another day.

One: God of the resurrection, open our eyes to the power of imagination and hope.

Many: Even when we are faithful and yet we see little proof of our labor.

All: Glory be to God of the resurrection who overcomes death and gives us faith, hope, and love that overcome all things. Amen.

Hymn

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

MADRID

**Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ we bring: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise we with grateful choice: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our guide and friend on whom we can depend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven’s blissful shore Christ’s goodness we’ll adore,
Singing, forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!**

Children’s Message

Laura Hankins

Hymn 321

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

BREAD OF LIFE

**Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me,
As you once broke the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
My spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

**Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
As you once blessed the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Prayer for Illumination (sung)

LEMMEL

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in God’s wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of God’s glory and grace.**

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 4

Fred Robinson

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

Selah

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;

the Lord hears when I call to him.

When you are disturbed, do not sin;

ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

Selah

Offer right sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many who say, ‘O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!’

You have put gladness in my heart

more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

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.

Hymn 342

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

ST. FLAVIAN

Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;

O Savior, stay with us and spread your table in our heart.

Here share with us in love divine, your body and your blood;

That living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'

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

“Look Again!”

Fred Robinson

Hymn

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth you have for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

*Silently now I wait for you, ready, my God, your will to do;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth you send so clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

*Silently now I wait for you, ready, my God, your will to do;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with your children thus to share.

*Silently now I wait for you, ready, my God, your will to do;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust,
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

Postlude

BREAD OF LIFE

(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, Meg Houlihan, 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."

MeckMIN invites youth!

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD INTERFAITH YOUTH CAMP, JUNE 10-13, 2021

Rising 9th - 12th graders who participate will visit several houses of faith including the Hindu Center, the Muslim Community Center of Charlotte, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and the synagogues at Shalom Park. They'll have service opportunities at the Galilee Center and Roof Above -- and an eye-opening tour led by staff at QC Family Tree. And, of course, they'll have fun and lots of opportunities for conversation with a diverse group of new friends. [Click here for the flier.](#)

We've also planned two information sessions open to you, interested youth and their parents or guardians. One will be held April 22 at 5 p.m. and the other on April 24 at 11 a.m. [The attached flyer has full details.](#) Contact LeDayne McLeese Polaski, Exec Dir of MeckMIN, 704-965-9241

AIDS WALK CHARLOTTE 2021, MAY 1

All are invited to join our Holy Covenant team as we come together to end HIV in the Charlotte community. We will be virtually walking this year on May 1 to make a positive impact to RAIN and those impacted by HIV. By being a part of our team, you are empowering persons living with HIV and those at risk to be healthy and stigma free. Sign up on our Holy Covenant Team site [AIDS WALK CHARLOTTE 2021 - Holy Covenant United](#)

[Church of Christ](#) (onecause.com). All funds raised will benefit [Charlotte R.A.I.N.](#) and their work with those living with AIDs or at risk. Questions? Please contact Debbie Davis at Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com.



MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM, WEDNESDAYS *12:30PM*

NEW TIME! NEW LINK!

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/81153885298?pwd=ZXIzVG80Yko5N2dWNnloVG12ckJndz09>

Meeting ID: 811 5388 5298 Passcode: 750474

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.

BAGGED LUNCHES - A TIME FOR CATCHING UP WITH FRIENDS

Thank you, HCUCC, for your ongoing support of our neighbors! Your donations allocated to [Community Outreach](#) will keep this program going! Please email Suzanne at suzlam@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

Resilience

Resilience; The ability to deal with and bounce back from a difficult situation or event. The American Psychological Association (APA) defines resilience as the process of effectively adapting to adversity or sources of significant stress. Resilience is important to develop at any time but even more so during this time of pandemic and the stresses associated with it including virtual schooling, working, inability to meet with friends and extended family in person, inability to go to the movies, out to eat, or engage in sporting events; and the impact of these stresses on weight, sleep, alcohol usage, level of physical activity, and increased TV and screen time.

Self-efficacy is a key element of resilience and is the belief that we have the ability to influence things or outcomes even if some things are unchangeable such as the death of a loved one. That is, we can do something to feel better in the face of such an unchangeable event, such as doing something to memorialize a loved one.

Positive memories have been found to foster resilience such as remembering a successful achievement, a wonderful experience, or coping effectively with a tough situation or loss in the past. Scheduling pleasant activities and exercise helps resilience.

Having close relationships are important in resilience; no one needs to “go it alone” and we all need someone to talk to and to feel understood and supported when facing a significant difficulty.

A sense of humor is always helpful in coping with difficulties. This can help with cognitive perspective and realizing that even extremely difficult things will end and life will go on, and even if changed, we can persevere. Keeping a journal during a difficult time can be useful. Resilience is also enhanced by gratitude; even in the face of adversity and stress there are always things that we can be grateful for, whether it is the support of family and friends, the enjoyment and escape of a good book, a kindness witnessed, and such basics as a job, decent home, food, and a reliable car.

And, remember that nature heals and we live in a wonderful environment of our church.

Sally Duffy



"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, frecrick@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, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia Simpson, 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), 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), Kyle Simmons (Dawn Simmons), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), Deborah Wingard (Melissa Noll)

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