



Silent Meditation

Acts of friendship must transcend the volatility of emotion.

~Gail R. O'Day

No person is your friend who demands your silence,
or denies your right to grow.

~Alice Walker

Such love keeps the spirit of Jesus alive in the world, for as long as
Christian love is in the world, the world is still encountering Jesus.

~Frances Taylor Gench

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021, 11am

Prelude "In Christ There Is No East or West" M. Hassell

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis
and Offertory Invitation

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Introit "Give Me a Clean Heart" DOUROUX

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee.

Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow thee.

Call to Worship Fred Robinson

One: God speaks to the heart,

Many: Offering compassion and hope.

One: God enlivens the mind,

Many: Inviting curiosity and wonder.

One: God awakens all spirits,

Many: Fostering sacred connection.

One: God nurtures our strength,

Many: Creating unimagined possibilities.

One: God calls the whole world,

Many: Inspiring extravagant love.

One: Creating Spirit, we join with the chorus of all of creation to celebrate your wondrous deeds.

Many: Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony, so that we may contribute to the world You are already creating.

All: All this we pray in the name of Jesus,
who revealed what is possible through love. Amen

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here,
That Christ is risen here.

Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray,
And live the way we pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

Song

"Thank You, Lord"

Thank you, Lord. [3x] I just want to thank you, Lord.
Been so good. [3x] I just want to thank you, Lord.
Been my friend. [3x] I just want to thank you, Lord.

Children's Message

Fred Robinson

New Testament Reading

Acts 10:44-48

Fred Robinson

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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.

New songs of celebration render to God who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor; come and adore the mighty One.
God has made known the great salvation
Which all the saints with joy confess.
God has revealed to every nation truth and unending righteousness.

Joyfully, heartily resounding, let every instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding, calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean,
Sound forth the song; your praises bring.

Rivers and seas and torrents roaring, honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones, look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise God's name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious, praises be sung that never cease:
Just is our God, whose truth victorious establishes the world in peace.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

Cheri Dennis

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

“Friendship with Jesus”

Cheri Dennis

Hymn

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy, until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving; Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving, until we meet again.
Loving, loving, loving, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient, until we meet again.
Patient, patient, patient, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful, until we meet again.
Faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again.

Benediction

Cheri Dennis

Postlude

“Song of Hope”

ARGENTINA

(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 Oneship, Sunday Worship will be live-streamed every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. until further notice. Please know the Oneship 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."

****May 16 - Save the date!****

**Worship service will be live-streamed to you,
after which you are invited to an outdoor
farewell reception for Rev. Fredrick Robinson.**

12:30 - 2:00 PM.

**There will be a basket for cards, simple refreshments served,
and an opportunity to wish him well in graduate school
and Felicia success in her new job.**

The Robinsons will be returning to their Atlanta, GA home.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

If you, or someone you know, will be graduating soon, please contact the office, office@holycovenantucc.org. We would love to have a photo, and a short bio, so we can share the good news, and celebrate their success!

The Class of 2021 is Twenty Twenty Done!!



THE MICHAEL G. BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP 2021-2022 APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The purpose of this Fund is to encourage Youth in both their educational growth as well as their service to God. Scholarship funds of \$2000 will be considered annually for all applicants.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION *see application [download here](#)

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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING, MAY 2021

The **Strengthen the Church** (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to *be the church* in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Contributions to this offering may be made during the month of May by mail or online. Be sure to put **STC** in the reference line, or in the NOTES field when giving online.

Mailing a check securely to our Post Office Box:

(Please note the mailing address!)

**Holy Covenant UCC
PO Box 481286
Charlotte, NC 28269**

Making your offering online through our website:

holycovenantucc.org/give/

Try our church app in 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.

THANK YOU! Your support helps build our stories about how we are living out God's love and expressing love of neighbor, children and creation, our 3 Great Loves.



BAGGED LUNCHES, MAY 10

WE NEED YOU! AND YOU, AND YOU!! We're planning big 175 bagged lunch prep morning on Monday, May 10th at 10AM. Please let me know if you would like to join us! Contact Suzanne at suzlam@yahoo.com and thanks in advance!

BOOK CLUB ZOOM MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL

On Thursday, May 13, at 1:30 pm, the SPCC/HCUCC book club will hold a Zoom meeting to discuss Jon Heaslet's recent (and most engaging) publication, Hawks Nest Chronicles. A member of our book club, Jon will be leading the discussion of his work. We would like to extend invitations to members and friends of our two church families to join us for this discussion. If you wish to participate, please contact Mary Ann Miklos (miklosma@gmail.com) or Sue Pascucci (suepascucci@gmail.com) so that we can send you an invitation to the book club meeting.

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

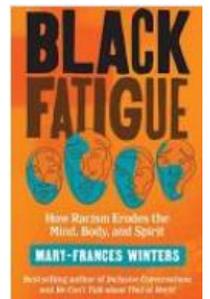
We are reading *Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit* by Mary-Frances Winters.

There are no pre-requisites for this class, only a curiosity about scripture and other writings, and an eagerness to see how God is still speaking to the church.

All are welcome to join us a 9:45 every Sunday via Zoom.

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.

GREENING OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES SUMMIT

Clean Air Carolina, a statewide nonprofit with a mission to advocate for the health of North Carolinians invites you to its first-ever *Greening Our Faith Communities Summit!*

Thursday, May 20 | 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Friday, May 21 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Free to attend. Virtual event.

[RSVP and Details Here](#)

Keynote Speaker Rabbi Judy Schindler, Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University. Full agenda is also available in the link.

MECK. COUNTY OFFERS COVID-19 HOMEBOUND PROGRAM

Are you homebound due to an ongoing physical or mental disability and unable to travel to a COVID-19 vaccination clinic? You may be eligible to receive the vaccine at your residence. Complete the request form available on Mecklenburg County's vaccine web page www.MeckNC.gov/COVID-19 OR CALL 980-314-9400.



"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, freccrick@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

Lisa Cloninger and Kathleen Smith, in the death of Lisa's mother, Sally Cloninger
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

Family and Friends in the sudden death of Rachel Angelo (Ed Vickery)
Louis & Bonnie (Kathleen Wagner), Linda Angstrom (Beth Sharp), Michael & Beth Bliss
(Robert Shepherd), Cecelia Ciciollo (Dominic Ciciollo), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin),
Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim
Hong), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), 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

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