



Silent Meditation

“The “why” of our hymn singing is enhanced by the “what” of our singing. Hymnals are amazing treasures of generative, imaginative renditions of faithfulness. One enduring hymn from the early 19th century is “Holy, Holy, Holy,” with a text by the Anglican poet and bishop Reginald Heber and a tune by John B. Dykes. This stately, regal hymn voices a dimension of gospel faith that is almost lost in the sweet romanticism of much recent church music. In a frightened, lonely culture of alienation like ours, the accent of much current church music concerns intimate one-on-one contact with God. The lyrics and the music together offer intimacy with God. **In the midst of such music, this hymn stands as a mighty insistence that the reality of God cannot be reduced to comfortable, reassuring companionship. The hymn insists that the God the church worships is an awesome sovereign to whom willing yielding is appropriate.**”

“In current church usage, the hymn is regularly linked to the celebration of Trinity Sunday, as the hymn quite intentionally asserts that distinct formulation of God in the full majesty of mystery. The threefold “holy” is taken as an allusion to the three persons of the Trinity. That is a legitimate ecclesial extrapolation, even though in the biblical texts that evoked the hymn (Rev. 4:6–11 and Isa. 6:1–8) there is no appeal to trinitarian categories. The threefold “holy” in these texts, rather, is a rhetorical extravagance and a linguistic superlative to voice the awesome wonder of the sovereign God.”

“The beloved song can contain God’s glory no more than the scripture it’s based on.”

Walter Brueggeman

(To read the entire article, go to:

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/great-drama-trinitarian-hymn-holy-holy-holy>)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TRINITY SUNDAY

May 30, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "Holy, Holy, Holy" arr. M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Gathering Music "Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome" D. Rambo

* Call to Worship Meg Houlihan

One: Come into this household of the living God, the Three in One. Gather in the wonder of the mystery in which God has invited us to share.

Many: **We have come as the family of Christ, led by the Spirit of God.**

One: Ascribe to the Divine glory and strength; ascribe to God the glory that is due. Worship the Triune God in the Beauty of Holiness.

Many: **Our hope is that in this time of worship and learning, we might embrace what lies beyond our imagination and understanding.**

All: **O God of Mystery,
Within your very self you model the beloved community.**

You are the Wisdom within our hearts,

The Word who dwells among us,

The Spirit who calls us beyond ourselves.

Let us know your presence here today

In a new way, that we might celebrate your love

and go forth rejoicing with the Prophet Isaiah,

saying: "Here am I. Send me."

** All rise in body or spirit*

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,
From the beginning, God eternally.

Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,
Though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

* Litany for Passing the Peace

Cheri Dennis

One: We cannot touch just now,

Many: not yet.

One: We cannot shake, embrace, slap each other on the back or kiss,

Many: not yet.

One: We cannot move around the space, up and down the aisles, jostle each other, trip over kids, reach down the pew to greet the elderly gent who can't get up, scan for the couple who came last week, hope this raucous time will go on and on - or pray that it won't, and the organist will cut it off with the intro to the next hymn - we can't,

Many: not yet.

One: But the peace that passes understanding is not like a virus. It doesn't need contact to infect. It's like the Spirit and the wind; it goes wherever it wills, wherever we send it.

Through webs and nets and wires, it googles and zooms to everyone whose heart needs peace, and to every place there is no peace. And we will share it now:

The peace of Christ be with you!

Many: And also with you!

Children's Message

Cheri Dennis

Song

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pastoral & Memorial Prayer

Cheri Dennis

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 29

Meg Houlihan

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

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.**

**Praise with joy the world’s Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge, grace be stowing without cease.
Celebrate the Maker’s glory, power to rescue and release.**

**Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ’s constant presence—Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit’s treasure—foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in Community,
Calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe when shown Christ’s vibrant unity.**

Sermonic Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-8

Cheri Dennis

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

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

Cheri Dennis

“Awesome God, Courageous Prophet, & Returning to Church”

Offering Dedication

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above all heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Hymn

“Here I Am Lord”

by Daniel L. Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (R)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life for them. Whom shall I send? (R)

* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* Benediction Response

“Song of Hope”
Argentine folk melody

CANTO DE ESPERANZA

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

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

*Portions of this service are adapted from
Mysterious Encounter: Service Prayers for Trinity Sunday was written by
the Rev. Dr. Bertrice Wood, Sagamore Hills, Ohio.
The Litany for Passing the Peace is written by Mary Luti, Emerge | Blessings and
Rituals for Unsheltering.*

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

Welcome to our first in-person worship today!

Returning to In-Person Worship Plan - Version 101.57

At times it feels as if we are on version 101.56 of the plan to return to in-person worship. We are committed to a plan that keeps everyone safe but, at the same time, does not exclude anyone. So, we are now on Version 101.56 or maybe .57. And that's a good thing. It means our leaders, the COVID Response Team, and the Re-Entry Team are considering all the various possibilities. Now is the time I wish that God would drop stone tablets out of the sky with ten bullet points on the best way to move forward. Unfortunately, that hasn't happened yet.

Our original plan was to require everyone to wear masks to keep those who have not been or cannot be vaccinated from being excluded from the service. Then we realized that by requiring masks we would also be excluding from worship those who cannot wear a mask. So, the plan has been updated to recommend that you wear a mask when in the church building including the sanctuary. So here is our latest version. Looking forward to seeing everyone in worship as you feel comfortable.

Pastor Cheri

May 30th - 11am in person in sanctuary

- Thank you for your reservation. Limited to 50 persons.
- Wearing a mask is recommended.
- Safe distance seating. The ushers will seat you.
- Child Care (nursery to 3 yr old) available.
- Children's Church for the entire hour will be held in the Conference Room.
- Please greet each other in the parking lot before and after church, instead of the Gathering Space. There will be no before service coffee or after service refreshments at this time.
- No robust congregational singing. Hum or sing softly with a mask.

Thank you Holy Covenant for such a wonderful sendoff. For all the cards, gifts, words of encouragement, and for showing up in person, you will always have a special place in my heart. What a special time we had together. Blessings to each of you.

Fred



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Click here to see our grads...

[Celebrating the Class of 2021](#)



This week was the one-year anniversary of the murder and death of George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer. While this past year has been one of many upheavals--the pandemic, which has caused illness and death alongside disruptions of work, school, social activities and family relationships; ongoing police brutality and anti-Black violence; the Black Lives and Say Her Name movements; rising unemployment--the impact of each of these on people of color has been extra and different than it has for white members of our community. The differential cost has included extra strain and stress, more symptoms of depression and anxiety, more financial strain and deep fatigue.

Those of us who are not people of color cannot fully understand these impacts. However, we do want to learn how to best support those who have been most affected. We also want to

work harder to do the complex and much-needed work of changing systems of oppression. Every bit we can learn is valuable and important. Every step we can take to bring awareness and change can help.

With its focus on mental health, the WISE team is one of the ministries of the church where some of this learning and support can occur and we are exploring opportunities to grow, learn and provide support. One of the ways we will do this is to collaborate with the Racial Justice Team and the Sojourners Class around the topic of Black fatigue in the coming months. Please share your input with Meg Houlihan (megmhoulihan@gmail.com), Holly Middleton (hsmiddleton@gmail.com) or any member of the WISE team. We welcome all levels of participation, views, ideas, concerns and opinions as we embark on this important "all hands on deck" work.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING IN MAY

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. If you would like to contribute, you may do so by mail, or online. Please write STC in the memo line, or in the NOTE field when giving online.

Mail a check securely to our Post Office Box:

Holy Covenant UCC
PO Box 481286
Charlotte, NC 28269

Making your offering online through our website:

holycovenantucc.org/give/

Try our new 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.



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.

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, Jana Harrison, 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 death of Nevin Milan (Kathleen Wagner)
Michael & Beth Bliss (Robert Shepherd), Cecelia Ciciollo (Dominic Ciciollo), Al (Bo) Dennis (Keith Dennis), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Bonnie Lee (Kathleen Wagner), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Vernon & Andrea Powell (Robert Shepherd), Darrell & Jackie Reichert (Diane Neese), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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