



*Art work by
Sydney Brown,
"Flames of Life"*



Silent Meditation

Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

~UCC Book of Worship

Confirmation is the affirmation of one's baptism, the claiming of a covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church.

~UCC Book of Worship

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 13, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "Jesus Loves Me/ Jesus Loves the Little Children"
Medley, arranged by Inman & Tornquist

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: Let us begin in the name of God our Creator, Jesus our redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our guide and comforter.

Many: Amen.

Introit "Rain Down" by Jaime Cortez
(Based on Psalm 33)

* Call to Worship (based on Psalm 92:1-4) Gavin Peterson

One: Come and give thanks to our God. Sing praises to the holy name.

Many: **With the melody of the lute and the harp and the song in our hearts, we declare God's steadfast love in the morning and faithfulness at night.**

One: God's works make us glad.

Many: **Your works are great, O God. We sing our praises of joy to you.**

All: **O God, maker of all that is beautiful, Jesus gave us the seeds of your justice and peace. In this time together, touch us, teach us, inspire us to sow those seeds through our ministries so that all may share in Creation's abundance to make true the promise that no one will know scarcity and no one will suffer deprivation in this community and beyond. Amen**

** All rise in body or spirit*

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Prayer of Confession

Cheri Dennis

One: Let us take a moment of silence and reflect on our own lives, on our limitations, on our sins.

All: Gracious God, you are indeed generous. You give us the gifts of the spirit which enable us to have so much. We forget, however, that we have been recipients of other people's generosity. Believing that what we have is ours, we forget that all we have is yours. Forgive us. Help us to remember that being made in your image, we should be as generous as you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit and a contrite heart. By God's steadfast love for us, we are forgiven of our sins.

Many: Thanks be to God.

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 Prayer

Cheri Dennis

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

You have been exceedingly generous to us, O God.

We return a portion of what we have to you in grateful thanksgiving.

Bless our offerings that they will nurture the seeds of hope and healing in this community and beyond. Amen.

* 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.

Scripture Readings

Genesis 12: 1-3

Molly Peterson

Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

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.

Psalm 23

Autumn Holt

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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.

Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice,
When hope and doubt touch every hour, when all thoughts find voice,
We turn, O God, to you for guidance and for grace.
In all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.

Teach us to love in truth, to give and to receive
With joyful and with open hearts, with all that we believe;
To seek another’s good, to honor what is right, to let our will
And our desire be held in holy light.

Teacher, Creator, God, enfold us in your arms;
Be with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.
All good and perfect gifts come to us from your hand.
O help us use them carefully and live by love’s command.

* Gospel Reading

“Matthew 14: 26-31”

Lloyd Spencer

But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’ Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’

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

Lloyd Spencer

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

Members and friends in Christ we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism for Molly & Gavin Peterson and the rite of confirmation for Molly Peterson & Autumn Holt. Let us affirm our faith as a church family with the words of the UCC Statement of Faith.

UCC Statement of Faith

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

One: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In this baptism today, God will work in Molly

and Gavin the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

Molly & Autumn have, through prayer and study, been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Hear the words of Jesus:

I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Questions for the Candidates & Sponsors

Lloyd Spencer

One: Gavin, do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Gavin: I do.

One: Molly, do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Molly: I do.

One: Once baptized, do you desire to affirm your baptism?

Molly: I do.

One: Autumn, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Autumn: I do.

One: Are you ready with God's help to guide and encourage Gavin and Molly by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?

Sponsor(s): I am.

One: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

GMA: I do.

One: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

GMA: I do.

One: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

GMA: I promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

GMA: I promise, with the help of God.

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, you witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

Many: We promise our love, support, and care.

Order for Baptism

Cheri Dennis/Lloyd Spencer

One: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in Molly & Gavin baptized today that they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

One: Gavin Peterson, you are baptized in the name of the Creator, Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Many: Amen.

One: The Holy Spirit be upon you, Gavin Peterson, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

One: Molly Peterson, you are baptized in the name of the Creator, Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Many: Amen.

One: The Holy Spirit be upon you, Molly Peterson, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

Prayer for the Baptized

One: O God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted your servants Molly and Gavin through the water of baptism. Nourish in then now the power of your Holy Spirit that they may serve you in the world.

Many: Amen.

Order for Confirmation

Lloyd Spencer

One: Stir up in Molly the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in Your Presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth.

One: Stir up in Autumn the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in Your Presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Prayer for the Confirmed

One: We rejoice, O merciful God, with Autumn and Molly in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

Many: Amen.

One: Let us, the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Many: We promise to you, Gavin, Molly, and Autumn, our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power or the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

* Benediction

Lloyd Spencer

* 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.

Postlude

“I Will Sing of the Mercies”

arr. by Parks

(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

*We are excited to have the musical talents of Kathleen Smith
as she fills in for Jon Weddell for the next few weeks.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

Once again, we want to say “THANK YOU” for bearing with us as we open for in-person worship and other activities. Sunday morning in-person worship has gone well. Your cooperation in sitting safely distanced and in wearing masks is greatly appreciated. But we did have one small (or maybe large, depending on your perspective) glitch this past Sunday with Communion. The prepackaged communion elements are not user friendly. Be assured, we are working on a solution to this for July. Blessings, Pastor Cheri

**Join us for a cupcake reception outdoors following worship today,
in celebration of our Confirmands.**

Gavin & Molly Peterson are the children of Meredith & Brian Peterson, and grandchildren of Holy Covenant members Chip & Judi Lord. Gavin is a rising 8th grader and enjoys drawing, basketball, Legos, reading, and anything Star Wars related. Molly is a rising 6th grader and enjoys crafting, reading, writing, American Girl dolls, and ballet. Welcome to the Holy Covenant family, Molly & Gavin.

Autumn Holt is the daughter of Tammie Holt & Charlie Holt, and granddaughter of Fred & Dawn Robinson. Tammie & Dawn are members of Holy Covenant. Autumn is a rising 7th grader and enjoys gymnastics, stormy & rainy days, animals, and SWEETS! Prior to COVID, Autumn played in our handbell choir. Welcome to the Holy Covenant family, Autumn.

In addition, we had two students who attended the confirmation classes remotely, **Ariel Fequiere** and **Julisa Richardson**. We are delighted to have had them with us in our virtual classroom! Ariel is Laurence & Deb Winston's granddaughter, and Julisa and Ariel are close friends.

We are grateful for Dawn Robinson and Jo Ann Jellison, for leading the Confirmation Classes over the last months, and we are thankful for the additional assistance from Rev. Lloyd Spencer, Kim Buch, Lisa Cloninger, Suzanne Lamorey, Tammie Holt, and Rev. Cheri Dennis.

PLEASE WELCOME GUEST PREACHER THE REV. J. LLOYD SPENCER

Lloyd Spencer is originally from the Appalachian coal fields of West Virginia. He attended West Virginia Wesleyan College where he met his wife, Gussie. They married just a few days before graduation at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 1974 and just celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. After graduation they moved to North Carolina, serving in Currituck, NC. In 1989, he moved his ordination to the United Church of Christ and served churches in Louisville, KY, Lexington, NC, and Whitsett, NC near Greensboro. Lloyd and Gussie are the parents of two grown adults and the proud grandparents of two fantastic grandkids. They have both been very involved in the life of Holy Covenant UCC since joining and Lloyd was recently a guest teacher of the confirmation class. Thank you both for your ministries!

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM,
WE'RE MOVING TO *TUESDAYS 12:30PM***

Join us in our weekly bible study, on our new day and time, Tuesdays at 12:30PM. We'll continue our exploration of Paul's missionary journeys, as written in [Acts 21](#). Think about Paul's intended audience. In what ways are we like and unlike the early churches?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81153885298?pwd=ZXIzVG80Yko5N2dWNnloVG12ckJndz09>

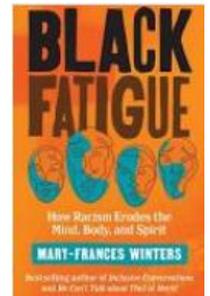
Meeting ID: 811 5388 5298 Passcode: 750474

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

This coming Sunday, June 13, will be both in-person in the Conference Room and virtual through the Zoom link below. We'll be concluding with Chapter 10 in Black Fatigue. Please join us as you are able. Contact Pastor Cheri if you have questions: cherid@holycovenantucc.org or 704-519-6016.

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

Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762 and Passcode: 523903



BAGGED LUNCH BUILD, MONDAY, JUNE 21

Come one! Come all!!! We're planning big 175 bagged lunch prep morning on Monday, June 21st at 10AM. Please let me know if you would like to join us! Contact Suzanne at suzlam@yahoo.com and thanks in advance!

JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP SUMMER 2021 SCHEDULE

JRVC is a UCC camp for all ages, in Collettsville, NC, with a wide variety of weeklong programs with a many different focuses. Please see the [attached flier](#) for their programs, or visit jrvc.org. Holy Covenant UCC has scholarship funds for our youth interested in attending. Contact the church office for details.

IN OUR COMMUNITY, June 17, 6-7:30 PM

Taking PRIDE in Healthy Living

brought to you by the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association

Live Cooking Demo by Chef Nate Turner [Click here for the full flier](#)

Registration tinyurl.com/alztakingpride

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, Debbie Winston

Friends & Family Members

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), Eulene Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Cheri Dennis, Interim Pastor

cherid@holycovenantucc.org, 704-519-6016

Jon Weddell, M.Div, MSW, Minister of Music

jon@holycovenantucc.org, 609-558-1637

Dawn Simmons, BSBF, Executive Assistant

office@holycovenantucc.org, 704-599-9810

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