



Silent Meditation

“Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. ... Equally clear is the right to hear. To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker.”

~Frederick Douglass

“Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Now I've been free, I know what a dreadful condition slavery is. I have seen hundreds of escaped slaves, but I never saw one who was willing to go back and be a slave.”

~Harriet Tubman

“What I've realized is that life doesn't count for much unless you're willing to do your small part to leave our children — all of our children — a better world. Any fool can have a child. That doesn't make you a father. It's the courage to raise a child that makes you a father.”

~Barack Obama

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

June 20, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "Kum ba Yah" Traditional

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: **And also with you. Amen.**

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

* Call to Worship Terrence Hayes

One: Celebration rises, up from the deep places, finding voice in the light and air no longer denied.

Many: **Lift every voice and sing, sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.**

One: Celebration rises, not blind to the suffering, not blind to the sorrow. Celebration comes at a cost.

Many: **Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed.**

One: Celebration rises, remembering the way we have come, the paths taken that have brought us here now to this place and time of celebration. Celebration rises, up and up, full of remembering. Remembering the ones led to freedom by Harriet; Remembering lives and freedom stolen,

Many: **We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

One: Celebration rises, recognizing what has been done and left undone, knowing there is still and yet much to do, so much further to go. Celebration rises, naming the victories, recognizing the challenges yet ahead. Celebration rises on voices offering unfinished praise.

** All rise in body or spirit*

Many: Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee;

One: Celebration rises, resisting illusions, to be embraced by the real and abiding presence of God who breaks our chains, and sets us free for freedom, in power and love and joy.

Many: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears thou who hast brought us thus far on our way; thou who has by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

One: Celebration rises, with the power of healing wings and promise to endure. Celebration rises, celebrating that by God's grace, I am because You are, You are because I am; Celebrating that the fullness of my humanity does not diminish yours and the fullness of your humanity does not diminish mine.

Many: Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

All: True to who we are, True to who we have been and who we are becoming, thanks be to God. Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Hymn 526 "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

SIYAHAMBA

We are marching in the light of God;
We are marching in the light of God. *(repeat)*
We are marching (marching, we are marching)
Oh, we are marching in the light of God. *(repeat)*

Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos',
Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. *(repeat)*

Si-ya-ham-ba (ham-ba, si-ya-ham-ba)
Oh, Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. *(repeat)*

We are singing in the light of God...

Special Music

“The Voice of Truth”

M. Hill, S. Chapman

* Gospel Reading

Mark 4:35-41

Cheri Dennis

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’

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 Boat Ride from”

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.

Gift in Song

“I Can’t Wait”

Welch, Kane, Kaplin

(David McGuirt, guitar; Mike Yonkovic, accordion;

Lisa Cloninger, Kathi Smith, vocals)

* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* Benediction Response

God of rainbow, fiery pillar

Leading where the eagles soar,

We your people, ours the journey

Now and ever, now and ever, now and ever-more.

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**WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME
WITHOUT THE HELP OF:**

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins,
Laura Hankins, Meg Houlihan, Kathleen Smith
Our Ushers and Greeters

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

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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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 on our first 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

2021 VIRTUAL AIDS WALK - Thank You Holy Covenant!

Thank you Holy Covenant for supporting our church virtual walkers team this year in raising dollars to support the important work of RAIN in helping those living with HIV/Aids in our community. Several of us gathered to walk at our church and it was a beautiful day for ministry! To date, our church community has generously raised over \$650! A big thank you all who participated and donated to this important ministry and positively touching the lives of others in our community.

Did you know . . .?

On average, 6 new cases of HIV are reported each week in Mecklenburg County. Lifetime risk of an HIV diagnosis is higher if you live in the South, including North and South Carolina. Mecklenburg County has the largest number of HIV cases and new diagnoses in North Carolina. 49% of all HIV/AIDS diagnoses occur in the South. The CDC says that 1 in 5 new HIV infections occur in people younger than 25. For more information, visit CarolinaRAIN.org



TRAVELING? WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE TOILETRIES?!

We are in need of toiletries and amenities you returned home with. Bring your unused travel size shampoos, soaps, lotions, shower caps, etc. We'll see they get to those who need them!

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM, *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. 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 20, will be both in-person in the Conference Room and virtual through the Zoom link below. 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.

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, Jim Hong, 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), Joyce Tyler (Bill & Kim Tyler), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)