



Silent Meditation

“Sufficiency isn’t two steps up from poverty or one step short of abundance. It isn’t a measure of barely enough or more than enough. Sufficiency isn’t an amount at all. It is an experience, a context we generate, a declaration, a knowing that there is enough, and that we are enough.”

~Brene Brown

“I did my best, and God did the rest.”

~Hattie McDaniel

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 25, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "Be Still My Soul" arr. P. Rodriguez

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

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

Introit 743 "Be Still and Know"
(Based on Psalm 46:10)

Be still and know that I am God. (3x)

* Call to Worship

One: We join together as hungry eaters to be nourished by the food that you offer us.

Many: **God of sustenance, give us this day our daily bread.**

One: As you care for the wheat fields that turn into bread and the vineyards that labor to produce sweet wine, tend to our bodies by feeding us what we need for healthy growth.

Many: **God of abundance, give us this day our daily bread.**

One: The rich crops that you have prepared are now ready to be harvested by our hands and our hearts.

Many: **Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.**

All: **Holy Chef, may we savor the dishes that you have prepared for us this day. With each bite of your holy feast, enliven our senses so that we may delight in the new and tantalizing flavors you have created.**

* Hymn 347 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" LINSTEAD

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
Reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

** All rise in body or spirit*

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,
At his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express. (R)

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! (R)

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

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.

Children's Message

Laura Hankins

Prayer for Illumination

"Sanctuary"

KL Ascher & PH Williams

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Scripture Lesson

2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, "They shall eat and have some left." ' He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

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.

Song

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

*Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

**I am weak, and I need your strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (R)**

* Gospel Reading

John 6:1-21

Cheri Dennis

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

'When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

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

“Abundance”

Cheri Dennis

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

Cheri Dennis

God of wonders, who enabled Jesus and Elisha to feed the multitudes, bless these gifts and use them to fill empty stomachs and empty hearts. May our offerings be multiplied to abundantly nourish all the people. In Jesus name, 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.**

* Hymn

“We Are Your People”

WHITFIELD

**We are your people: God, by your grace,
You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors
Of every nation and race.**

**Called to portray you, help us to live
Closer than neighbors, open to strangers,
Able to clash and forgive.**

**Glad of tradition, help us to see
In all life's changing where you are leading,
Where our best efforts should be.**

Joined in community, breaking your bread,
May we discover gifts in each other,
Willing to lead and be led.

God, as we minister in different ways,
May all we're doing show that you're living,
Meeting your love with our praise.

* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* 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

“We Will Walk with God”
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SIZOHAMBA NAYE

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

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins, Laura Hankins,
Meg Houlihan, Kathi Smith
JoAnn Jellison, Tammie Holt, Autumn Holt, Shakti Subramanian

Our Faith is over 2000 Years Old. Our thinking is not.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

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. Blessings, Pastor Cheri

CHRISTMAS IN JULY SPECIAL OFFERING

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Good news...Great Joy...All the People... (Luke 2:10) These times call us to deeper compassion and increased generosity.

The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross to support retired UCC clergy and church staff and surviving clergy spouses. Through the generosity of churches like ours, these servants of the church receive emergency financial assistance, help with health care costs, and annual "thank you" checks. We give not only to meet their needs, not only to thank them for their ministries, but also to make room in our hearts and their lives for a new thing to break forth.

Holy Covenant UCC has moved this special offering from the busy time of December, to be Christmas in July, to lighten your giving in December. If you are called to contribute to this fund, you may do so by notating your check "Christmas Fund", or on our website, by choosing Designated Gifts, sub-fund Christmas Fund. holycovenantucc.org/give-2/ Thank you, and blessings upon your gifts.

EYEGLOSS COLLECTION

MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) based in Ann Arbor, recycles and dispenses 10,000 pairs of eyeglasses in over 50 countries. Check your couches and recliners for those lost reading glasses, check your "catch all" drawer in your kitchen for those ten year old prescription glasses, and check your car for the sunglasses that went out of fashion five years ago. Drop them in the collection box in the Gathering Room. They'll be sent to Ann Arbor for cleaning, repairing, and labeling, then boxed up, ready for the next team going to Guatemala, Kenya, India, China, or any of 50 other countries. In the words of many of those who've received glasses, "*¡Dios le bendiga!*" God bless you! For more information on MOST and the eyeglass ministry, [click here](#). Follow a pair of glasses from donation to the new wearer! <https://youtu.be/1uMIEnIJZQI>

TRAVELING? WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE TOILETRIES?! 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 ON HIATUS FOR SUMMER

We'll regroup in August for a September start up.

SOJOURNERS CLASS RESUMES SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

For more information, contact Cheri

Dennis (704-519-6016, cherid@holycovenantucc.org)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kevin Decker, Jeff Edwards-Knight, 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, Deb Winston

Friends & Family Members

Cecelia Ciciollo (Dominic Ciciollo), Kath (Basco) Craton (Diane Neese), Al (Bo) Dennis (Keith Dennis), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Darrell & Jackie Reichert (Diane Neese), Eulene Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Tom & Silvia Smith (Laura Hankins), Joyce Tyler (Bill & Kim Tyler), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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