



*Early third century depiction of Eucharistic bread and fish,
[Catacomb of San Callisto, Rome.](#)*

Silent Meditation

“Believing in resurrection is okay.
Living resurrection is quite another thing.”
~Elizabeth Gray-King

“What’s more important –
stating a belief or living a belief?”
~Anonymous

“There is a vast difference between being
attracted to the ministry of Jesus and
being enticed by the might of Jesus.”
~Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 1, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "My Jesus, I Love Thee" arr. P. Rodriguez

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you. Amen.

Introit "Holy Ground" Beatty/Davis

This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground.

For our God is present and where God is is holy. (2x)

We are standing on holy ground,

And I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now.

We are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

* Call to Worship Ed Vickery

One: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways. This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

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

One: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you. As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—faith, hope, and love.

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

One: All life is created and nourished by you! May we grow into new circles of understanding and being, reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

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

All: **Life Sustainer, we receive the things you desire to offer us today and each new day! Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word and use its teachings to energize our bodies and spirits.**

** Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worshiping,, reading, and singing.*

* Hymn 307

“Glorious Things of You Are Spoken”

AUSTRIAN HYMN

Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
One whose word cannot be broken formed you for a blessed abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake your sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded, you may smile at all your foes.

See! the streams of living waters, springing from eternal Love,
Well supply your sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, while such a river ever will their thirst assuage:
Grace which, like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age?

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, showing that their God is near!
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion’s city we through grace a part may claim,
Let the world deride or pity, we will glory in your name.
Fading is all worldly pleasure, all earth’s boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasures, none, but Zion’s children know.

Confession (*in unison*)

God, we confess that we often spoon-feed ourselves items and ideas that do not provide us the energy we need to do your work. This creates space between you and us, between ourselves and each other, as members of Christ’s one body. Oftentimes, we are willing to risk our sustained health and well-being for immediate satisfaction.

Assurance of Pardon

Cheri Dennis

Through Jesus, we have been given an example of one who was truly nourished and sustained by God. In Christ, we are forgiven, made whole, and restored to the one body. Let us now look to God in prayer for ourselves, our church, our community and the world.

Song

“Salaam/Peace”

SALAAM

*Salaam, salaam, the peace of God to every race.
Salaam, salaam, the peace of God in every place.*

Children’s Message

Laura Hankins

**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.**

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Ed Vickery

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." ' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." ' In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

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.

* Gospel Reading

John 6:22-35

Cheri Dennis

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the lake saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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

“Believe”

Cheri Dennis

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

O God, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fishes: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to feed all of creation—to produce seed and grain, filling humans and animals alike, and to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment exists. Amen.

* Doxology

THANK YOU, LORD

Thank you, Lord. (3x) I just want to thank you, Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation

Cheri Dennis

One: Let us prepare our hearts, open our minds and give thanks to our God. Creator God, in the beginning you put life into the emptiness, light into the darkness and saw that it was good.

Many: You created people to live on the earth, to love and be loved, to care for this creation and be fruitful. And you saw it was good, very good.

One: And when we failed to praise you for a harvest of plenty, to obey your commands and care for the world that you put in our hands, you sent us Jesus to show us the way.

Many: May this meal nourish us, strengthening us to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free.

All: Thank you, God, for inviting us to share in your mission to bring peace and abundant life to your creation. Amen.

Words of Institution

Cheri Dennis

(Please come forward in a single file line as the ushers direct you. Pick up your own cup of bread, then the juice. Return to your seat as the ushers direct. If you prefer not to come forward, please let an usher know. The elements will be brought to you.)

“Seed, Scattered and Sown”

*Seed, scattered and sown, wheat, gathered and grown,
Bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.*

*Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands,
One cup that is shared by all; The Living Cup, the Living Bread of God.*

Quartet: Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured? (R)

The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground will flower and have life. (R)

As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
So may the church of God be gathered into one. (R)

* Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)

We thank you God, for refreshing us at your holy table. We thank you for our Christian family in this community and around the world. May we always be reminded to see the world through Christ's eyes, and to work for a time when all may share together at Your table. 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

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kin-dom has come.

We will go rejoicing till the kin-dom has come.

Postlude

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

arr. D. Wyrzten

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, Kathi Smith

Martha Bomely, Joy Decker, Dawn Robinson
Shakti Subramanian, Ed Vickery

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

USHERS AND GREETERS AND READERS, OH MY!

A huge thanks to those who have been participating as ushers, greeters, and readers during our initial in-person worship services. We are making our way 'back to the future'. Since the former regularly serving usher and greeter teams are not yet assembled, please consider serving. You need not even be a member. Instruction, guidance and camaraderie will be available each Sunday. Below is a link to the SignUpGenius already partially populated by Consistory members. It would do our hearts good to see your name added!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DAEA928A0FBC70-hcucc>

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

Our Mission and Justice Team will be collecting school supplies to donate to David Cox Elementary School again this year. We will be receiving a list of the items needed later in the month and will provide those lists for those who wish to contribute. Watch for more information later.

[Click here](#) for an older list for suggestions.

COMING SOON! NEW MEMBER / INQUIRER CLASSES!

Following this Labor Day (it's coming up soon!), we are making plans for **in-person and virtual classes**. *Ever wonder why we do what we do? Ponder who we are and how we got there? Curious about the UCC and its traditions?* Whether you are planning to join, or maybe not, had already joined and still have questions, or just want to get to know each other better, this will be the place for you! Look for our future schedule here. And if you know you want to be a part of these classes, please let the office know, office@holycovenantucc.org. We are looking forward to our time together!

EYEGLOSS COLLECTION

We've collected over 45 pairs of unused eyeglasses (and thanks for the cases too!) Drop them in the collection box in the Gathering Space.

SOJOURNERS CLASS RESUMES SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

During the month of August, the Sojourners class will be reading Valarie Kaur's book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. Kaur is a Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights attorney. She was recently a keynote speaker for the UCC General Synod. The book is available from Amazon in hardcover, paperback, Kindle, and Audible.

As always, you don't have to have read the book to join us at 9:45 on Sunday mornings - in person in the Conference Room or join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673409762?pwd=VnVGZDNTOEtycnoycWJ6RTVkTjF4UT0909#success> Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762 Passcode: 523903

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to prayers@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), Dennis Cloninger (Lisa Cloninger), 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

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