



Silent Meditation

"Friends believe that within each human being there is a divine spark or
"Inner Light," and that every person is a vehicle of God."

~ Religious Society of Friends

"Are you some kind of magic mirror?
Come to show me God with my own face."

~ John Mark McMillan

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

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 8, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "In Christ There Is No East or West" arr. M. Hassell

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you. Amen.

Introit 743 "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 Tammie Holt, Autumn Holt

One: Come

Many: Come into the place where God listens

One: Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes

Many: Come as you are

One: Broken, whole, sick, well, satisfied, or with deep needs

Many: Come to sing, come to cry

One: Come to hear, come to see

Many: Come and be ready

One: Or come to be made ready

Many: We are here

One: God is here, too

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

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning; giving thanks for having come;
Come to trust at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

Missions and Justice Moment

Suzanne Lamorey

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

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

Cheri Dennis

Prayer for Illumination

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.

Reading

Tammie Holt, Autumn Holt

“The Insecurity of Freedom”

Rabbi Joshua Heschel

The basic dignity of others is not made up of their achievements, virtues, or special talents. It is inherent in their very being. The commandment “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18) calls upon us to love not only the virtuous and the wise but also the vicious and the stupid person. The rabbis have, indeed, interpreted the commandment to imply that even a criminal remains our neighbor. The image-love is a love of what God loves, an act of sympathy, of participation in God’s love. It is unconditional regardless of one’s merits or distinctions. According to many thinkers, love is induced by that which delights or commands admiration. Such a view would restrict love to those worthy of receiving it and condition it upon whether a person might invoke delight or admiration. It would exclude the criminal and the corrupt members of society. In contrast, to love someone, according to Judaism, is not a response to any physical, intellectual, or moral view of the person. We must love others because they are made in the image of God.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: **Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Gift in Song

“Crowded Table”

by Lori McKenna, Natalie N. Hemby, Brandi Carlisle

Lisa Cloninger, Kathi Smith, vocals, Shea Watts, guitar

* Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shea Watts

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

“Imitators and Image-Bearers of God”

Shea Watts

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

Cheri Dennis

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.

* Hymn 181

“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”

M. Haugen

You are the salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

Refrain:

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! (R)

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! (R)

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! (R)

* Benediction

Shea Watts

* 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

“Depth of Mercy/I Surrender All”
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arr. J. Vogt

A church for all people, Where *love* of neighbor is expressed,
Feelings of the heart are shared, *Thinking* is encouraged,
Caring for the world is our mission,
and *Responding* to God's love is our purpose.

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

WELCOME DR. SHEA WATTS

We are delighted to welcome into our pulpit Dr. Shea Watts. Shea served briefly as music director at Holy Covenant, leaving to complete work on his PhD at Chicago Theological Seminary, where his dissertation focused on the liberative and political contours of worship in the Pentecostal movement. Shea serves as the Director of Contemporary Music and Worship Arts at Covenant Presbyterian and is an Adjunct Professor in the Religion and Philosophy Department at Wingate University.

MICHAEL G. BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Each year Holy Covenant awards \$2000 in scholarship funds to encourage young and young at heart members in their educational growth and service to God. We are pleased to announce that this year's scholarship recipients are **Jean Raley-Dennis** who is pursuing a Masters in Nursing Education at UNCW and **Bridget Green** who is pursuing a Masters in School Administration at UNCC. Congratulations to both of you. God's blessings in your continuing education.

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 60 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

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-year giving statements have been mailed. If you have questions about your offerings, please don't hesitate to inquire. Contact Dawn Simmons in the church office, office@holycovenantucc.org or 704-599-9810. Holy Covenant UCC continues to thrive and remains strong in our community support because of your participation in ministry. Thank you one and all.

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

Lisa Cloninger, Ben Decker, Meg Houlihan, Kathi Smith
Martha Bomely, Alix Felsing, Autumn Holt, Tammie Holt, Shakti Subramanian

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), Nikki Echeverri and infant son (Melissa Noll), 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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