



Blind Man's Meal, Pablo Picasso, 1903

Silent Meditation

“The practice of finding often takes our breath away and bring tears to our eyes, for through these precious and unforeseen ‘aha’ moments we discover that the gift we receive is more cherished than the one we’ve been seeking.”

~Holly W. Whitcomb

“Be faithful to the time spent in prayer and make sure that at least half of your prayer is spent in silence. This will bring you closer to Jesus. If you deepen your prayer life you will grow in holiness and obtain many graces for the souls entrusted to your care. Deepen your love for one another by praying for each other and by sharing thoughts and graces you have received in prayer and reading.”

~Mother Teresa

“Deliberately seeking solitude-quality time spent away from family and friends-may seem selfish. It is not. Solitude is as necessary for our creative spirits to develop and flourish as are sleep and food for our bodies to survive.”

~Sarah Ban Breathnach

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

August 15, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "Fairest Lord Jesus Medley" arr. L. Bergquist

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 Cheryl Milam

One: Come into this household of God that we might all listen to God's Word and discern the wisdom that comes only from God.

Many: **How can we discover such wisdom?**

One: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom. When we choose to live according to God's will and plan, God will give to each of us a wise and discerning heart.

Many: **God fills us with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs! We have come to praise with music from our hearts.**

One: Jesus is here in our midst as living bread. We want to be nourished and strengthened that we may remain with him. Jesus is so close to us that we can taste his presence.

All: **Praise the Lord! Learn of God's compassion and mercy. Praise the Lord with our hearts! Praise the Lord!**

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

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God’s goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where’er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

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

Laura Hankins

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.

Hebrew Scripture

Proverbs 9:1-6

Cheryl Milam

Wisdom has built her house,

she has hewn her seven pillars.

She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,

she has also set her table.

She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls

from the highest places in the town,

‘You that are simple, turn in here!’

To those without sense she says,

‘Come, eat of my bread

and drink of the wine I have mixed.

Lay aside immaturity, and live,

and walk in the way of insight.’

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.

Gift in Song

“El-Shaddai”

Grant/Card

Meg Houlihan, vocalist

El-Shaddai, El-El-Yon na, Adonai, Erkamka na.

Translation: God Almighty, God Most High, My Lord, I love you.

* Gospel Lesson

John 6:51-58

Cheri Dennis

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.’

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.

* 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.

* Hymn

“We Are God’s People”

SYMPHONY

We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of God’s Spirit, established by God’s Word.
Our cornerstone is Christ alone and strong in God we stand:
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured.
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.

We are the body of which the Lord is head,
Called to obey Christ, now risen from the dead.
God wills us be a family diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God and so shall God’s work on earth be done.

* 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

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

arr. A. M. David

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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

SUPPLIES FOR DOVE'S NEST

Next week, Rev. Barbara Thomas will be our guest preacher. A few years ago, Barbara served as our associate pastor. She is now the Program Director for Dove's Nest for Women and Families. Dove's Nest is a program of Charlotte Rescue Mission, a local Christian organization whose vision is a world without addiction. Below is a list of some of the current ongoing needs of Dove's Nest. If you'd like to contribute any of these items, please drop them by the church this week.

HE laundry pods; Highlighters; Full-size body lotion; Women's sneakers size 6 to 12; Women's underwear small (6) and medium (7); Hairbrushes; Sports bras all sizes; Protein bars

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

Our Mission and Justice Team will be collecting school supplies to donate to David Cox Elementary. Thank you for sending them off with a good start! [Click here](#) for an older list for suggestions.

COMING SOON! NEW MEMBER / INQUIRER CLASSES!

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!

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*. What is revolutionary love, why should we love this way, how do we love this way? These are some of the questions we'll discuss. This book combines personal memoir, narrative stories, and views of what the world could look like if we really "love

one another as God loves us." Valarie Kaur is a Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights attorney. 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

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.

EVICITION ASSISTANCE

Are you a tenant who is facing eviction? Or do you know someone who is? The State of North Carolina allows what is called, "An expedited eviction process" meaning that you, as a tenant, can receive an eviction notice from the court (after your landlord files for such), and have a court date set as early as seven days after that notice has been filed. This is incredibly quick. Many other states offer tenants at least 30 days of notice prior to an assigned court date. Hence, knowing your legal rights in such matters is vital. Legal Aid of North Carolina has several YouTube videos that might be helpful to you or someone you know.

1) How to apply for help from Legal Aid of North Carolina
<https://youtu.be/nkkM4FhuJTc> 2) How to appeal an eviction judgment
<https://youtu.be/U9Lg2Xeo64Q>

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

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

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins, Laura Hankins,
Meg Houlihan, Kathi Smith
Ushers: Joy Decker, Jo Ann Jellison
Greeters: Christine Andersen, Mel Andersen

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), 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), Cindy Andes Nance (Kristin Andes & Tom Magraw), 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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