



Photo by Hannah Busing _ Unsplash

Silent Meditation

“When you have come to the edge of all light that you know
And are about to drop off into the darkness
Of the unknown, Faith is knowing
One of two things will happen:
There will be something solid to stand on or
You will be taught to fly”
-----Patrick Overton

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

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "The Lord's My Shepherd" arr. S. Nielson

Chiming of the Hour

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 Dawn Robinson

One: We gather on this day to declare that God is in our midst.

Many: **Though storms rage around me, I will clothe myself with the whole armor of God; knowing that God will guide me.**

One: We listen on this day for the clear voice of God who calls us to 'come'.

Many: **Though fear and darkness seek to overcome, I place my confidence and trust in the word of God.**

One: We seek on this day to renew our connection to the spirit of God within and among us.

Many: **Though distractions and confusion pull at us ; the insistent presence of God guides, loves, challenges and restores our faith.**

All: **We gather on this day to worship, to praise to listen, to be renewed, to experience the God of miracles. Amen**

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

Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain: Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (R)

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. (R)

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

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.

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 85: 6-13

Dawn Robinson

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.
One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying;
Many: **Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Special Music

“Salaam/Peace”

SALAAM

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

Epistle Lesson

James 2:14-26

Dawn Robinson

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’, and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

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 Lesson

Matthew 14:22-33

Barbara Thomas

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of 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

"Get Out of the Boat!"

Barbara Thomas

* 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 173 “You Have Come down to the Lakeshore”

PESCADORES DE HOMBRES

You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.

Refrain:

O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you’ve called my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.

You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. (R)

* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

* 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

“Faith of the Martyrs”

arr. J. Vogt

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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, Kathi Smith, Dawn Robinson
Ushers and Greeters: Jo Ann Jellison, Ed Vickery

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 BACK REV. BARBARA THOMAS

Rev. Barbara Thomas, ordained in the NY Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ, celebrated the 40th anniversary of her ordination in 2020! Currently Program Director of Charlotte Rescue Missions' Dove's Nest program, a 120-bed facility that provides addiction treatment for women and their children who have experienced homelessness and hopelessness, Barbara has dedicated much of her ministry to walking with the underserved, including 8 years as Director of Services at Urban Ministry Center (now A Roof Above) and several years as Southeast Regional Director of Church World Service supporting the Charlotte Crop Hunger Walk and other efforts to provide solutions to poverty and hunger. Barbara pastored a Presbyterian church in upstate New York before coming to Charlotte, where she served as Associate Pastor at Holy Covenant UCC under leadership of Rev. Nancy Allison.

Barbara also is passionate about counseling and training and remains active as a psychotherapist and coach at the Counseling Center of Charlotte. Her interest in trauma informed care and educating those who serve in the margins of the community motivates her to offer training to the staff of local non-profits and shelters. The method of Appreciative Inquiry, has inspired her to lead groups and organizations in reflection, goal setting and visioning.

Rev. Thomas has 2 Bachelor's degrees from Denver University, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School, and a Master's degree in Organizational Development from Queens University. An enthusiastic member of New Emmanuel Congregational Church in Charlotte, Barbara loves to sing with the choir and help out where she can. Barbara has been in Charlotte for 14 years.

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

Our Mission and Justice Team is collecting school supplies to donate to David Cox Elementary School again this year. Thank you for getting them off to a great start! [Click here](#) for a current list of suggested items.

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

EVICTIION 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>

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), 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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