



Silent Meditation

“It was common practice in the Middle East, as well as in parts of Asia and Africa, to use bread as a utensil. The pita or flatbreads were used to scoop different foods from dishes, as we scoop dip with chips today.”

~from Chef Talk Forum

“Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—

O prosper the work of our hands!”

~Psalm 90:14-17

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

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 10, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "Sweet Hour of Prayer/Just as I Am" arr. J. Vogt

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Stewardship Moment Dawn Robinson, Tammie Holt, Autumn Holt

Introit "Let Us Build a House" ALL ARE WELCOME

Let us build a house where prophets speak,

And words are strong and true,

Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;

Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

* Call to Worship Autumn Holt

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.**

* 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.

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Cheri Dennis

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. We are willing to risk our sustained health and well-being for immediate satisfaction which neither nourishes us or our neighbors. Our lack of nourishment, physical and spiritual, creates space between you and us, between ourselves and each other, as members of Christ's one body. For this we are sorry and ask your forgiveness.

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. We are one body in Christ, now and forever. Amen.

* Song "Oh, How Good is Christ the Lord" OH QUE BUENO
Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross, he died for me.
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus.
Glory be to Jesus! Glory be to Jesus!
In three days, he rose again. Glory be to Jesus!

Pastoral Prayer Judah L. Jones

Song "Now" R. COONEY
Now is the moment. Now is the time.
This very day there is salvation.

Children's Message Laura Hankins

Prayer for Illumination CHEREPONI
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Reading from Psalms Psalm 90:14-17 Tammie Holt
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and
be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and
for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be manifest to your
servants, and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our
hands – O prosper the work of our hands!
One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church;
Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Song "Baruch Hashem Adonai" D. Rodgers
Baruch hashem Adonai. Baruch hashem Adonai.
Blessed be the name of the Lord. Baruch hashem Adonai.

* Gospel Reading

John 6:24-35

Judah L. Jones

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

“The Hotdog Bun of Life”

Judah L. Jones

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

O God, accept our offerings we return to you from the resources you first gave us. Teach us to share our blessings as you shared your Son Jesus for the salvation of the world. Accept these gifts and use them to feed all creation, physically and spiritually, to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment of body and soul exists. Amen

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Spirit, creatures here below.

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;

Praise God the source of all our gifts. Amen.

* Hymn 207

“Just as I Am”

WOODWORTH

Just as I am, without one plea but that your blood was shed for me,
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, your love unknown had broken every barrier down;
Now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

* Benediction

Cheris 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

“I Know Whom I Believed”

arr. L. Larson

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

Please remember to wear your mask when indoors as mandated by Mecklenburg County officials. Thank you for your cooperation.

WELCOME BACK REV. JUDAH L. JONES!

The Reverend Judah L. Jones is an ordained minister in the Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Church. She holds a Master of Divinity (MDiv) from Duke Divinity School. Despite being born blind, Judah has challenged limits and continues to accomplish her vocational goals. She serves in extension ministry as a preacher, singer/songwriter, actor, artist, and comedian. Former positions include Senior Pastor, Director of Pastoral Care, Substance Abuse Counselor, and Minister of Music. She served as Minister of Music at Holy Covenant UCC 2006-2014. She has spent the past year and a half as "Artist in Residence", because she has been staying safe at home during the pandemic. She is married to Bill Englebret, a recently retired UM minister and table tennis professional. You can follow Judah on Facebook at [Judah Blind Prophet](#).

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

Today, as part of World Communion Sunday, we will receive the Neighbors in Need special offering. Contributions may be made at any time throughout the month. This year, NIN's themed "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

OCTOBER CHALLENGE FROM THE PASTOR

During the month of October, I'm inviting the entire congregation to "theologize" with me. I'm inviting you to "do theology" in community as we study together the Book of Proverbs. There are 31 days in the month of October & 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs. I challenge each of us, including me, to read one chapter each day beginning Oct. 1st.

The overall goal of the Book of Proverbs is to "teach the acquisition of wisdom and the avoidance of folly." Wisdom and folly are explicitly mentioned all through Proverbs, but there are many more nuanced words used for similar ideas. What are they? What Proverbs still ring true? What Proverbs make no sense?

The Sojourners Class (see below) will discuss Proverbs during our Sunday morning sessions in October. We will "do theology" in community. If you aren't able to join us on Sunday mornings, please contact me and share with me what you've learned about God, what questions do you have, what doesn't make sense, or what makes perfect sense, but you don't agree. This is how we "do

theology” in community. This is how we hear our still-speaking God. I hope you’ll join me on this journey. Pastor Cheri

FLU SHOT CLINIC TUESDAY, OCT 12 FROM 11 AM - 1 PM

Aline Sullivan will hold a drive through clinic at HCUCC. Please let us know if you wish to be included. [RSVP office@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:RSVP_office@holycovenantucc.org). Bring ID, and your insurance card, and wear short or loose sleeved shirt. Aline Sullivan, BS, PharmD., R.Ph

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION'S ANTI-RACISM JOURNEY

The Racial Justice and Equity Team invites all Holy Covenant members to join a Zoom conversation about our congregation’s anti-racism journey. The team will host two opportunities; 7:00 p.m. Wed. 10/13 and 10:00 a.m. Sat. 10/16. This first conversation will focus on the concept of “Black Fatigue,” which is the accumulated experience of everyday racism. Attendees will participate in small-group discussions facilitated by members of the Holy Covenant family. Discussions will emphasize listening skills and our goal is to provide a safe place for everyone to listen and be heard, no matter who or where you are on this journey. RSVP for your preferred date here: <https://forms.gle/D7rFd2RyCkU4XVQo9>. Q&A? Holly Middleton, hsmiddleton@gmail.com.

LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

We'd like to gauge interest/availability/readiness to take part in a choir for Advent & Christmas. If we can get 2 or 3 people on each part, it would be great. We are thinking rehearsals will be directly at the conclusion of the Sunday worship service & will last an hour. We will be under the direction of Jon Weddell, our fabulous music director so please RSVP directly to him if you are available & interested. His email is jdw08629@gmail.com. We hope some of you can participate!

CROP HUNGER WALK 2021 (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty)

October 31 at 1:00 pm at Holy Covenant UCC

It's not too late to join the HCUCC CROP group on October 31 or the Nov. 7 Memorial Stadium group. If you would like to donate, please give cash or a check -payable to CROP- to one of the walkers - Linda Carver, Phil Kaveler, Darline Warren or Tina Dickens. We dedicate this year's walk to the memory of Moses Taylor, who was one of our most dedicated supporters. We miss him so much! C.R.O.P. will help to alleviate world hunger; 25% of all donations will stay in Mecklenburg County and be divided between 3 agencies - Crisis Assistance Ministries, Loaves & Fishes/ Friendship Trays and Second Harvest Bank. For more information, contact Tina Dickens at taichitina@gmail.com.

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

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins, Laura Hankins,
Meg Houlihan, Kathleen Smith, Jo Ann Jellison, Shakti Subramanian

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Bob Saylor and family in the death of his father, Dick Saylor

Kristin Andes & Tom Magraw in the death of Kristin's sister Cindy Nance

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Hong, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia Simpson, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Family & friends in the death of Fran Matkins (Robert Shepherd)

Brian Beaver (Bob Saylor), Guy & Cena Brown (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Dennis Cloninger (Lisa Cloninger), Kathy (Basco) Craton (Diane Neese), Nikki Echeverri (Melissa Noll), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), Alec Kirchoefner (Melissa Noll), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Michael & Chris Mele-Wagner (Dominic Ciciollo), Darrell & Jackie Reichert (Diane Neese), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-Knight)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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