



Photo by [Ben Wicks](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Silent Meditation

“Just because a child's parents are poor or uneducated is no reason to deprive the child of basic human rights to health care, education and proper nutrition.”

Marion Wright Edelman

“If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”

Ignacio Estrada

“But Jesus called for them and said,
‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that
the kingdom of God belongs.’”

Luke 18:16

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

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN'S SABBATH**

October 17, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "It Is Well with My Soul" 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 Yvette Wynn, Debbie Davis

Introit "Let Us Build a House" ALL ARE WELCOME

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;

A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;

As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

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

* Call to Worship Phil Kaveler

One: Where does it hurt?

Many: **We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the voices of our children.**

One: What do you hope?

Many: **We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear the hopes of children and to nurture the hope within each of us.**

One: How can we help?

Many: **We gather this morning with listening hearts to hear how we can help in partnership with those who are hurting, as ones who are hoping.**

One: Who are you and why are you here?

...

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

Many: We gather this morning as God's people to worship God, in confidence that God hears our hurts and hopes before they are even on our lips and calls us, as God's partners, to help with a passion for justice and hearts full of love.

One: Come, let us worship God on this Children's Sabbath day.

All: This is the Lord's day. This is God's house. We are God's children. Let the praise begin!

* Hymn 495 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care.
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Cheri Dennis

Loving God, we confess that often we fail to hear the voices of those who are young, impoverished, and hurting. We ignore the voices of those who speak in other languages, come from other communities, have different life experiences than our own. We turn away from voices that call us to account, or to commit, or to sit with their pain. We privilege the voices of those in positions of power, with status and wealth, or who tell us what we want to hear.

O God, when Jesus put a child amid the disciples squabbling about position, he reminded us what is important. Forgive us for again missing the mark. Remind us to hush and heed the voices of children and young people. Open us to what they have to teach us, for ways they might lead us to more faithfully be your people who love and listen, heal and prevent harm, and pursue your ways of peace and justice. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Cheri Dennis

Listen to me! I have good news to share: God is for us. God never gives up on us. God will always love us. Let us live with love and joy in that knowledge. Thanks be to God. 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

Cheri Dennis

Today’s Pastoral Prayer is a Litany. Each petition ends with “we pray” after which the congregation responds with “Loving God, hear our prayer.”

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.

Readings from the Gospels

Phil Kaveler

Matt. 18:4-5 - Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Mark 9:37 - Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me.

Luke 19:17 - Truly, I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.

John 16:21 - When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being in to the world.

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

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

Special Music

“It Is Well with My Soul”
Dorrie Hankins

arr. L. Bergquist

* Sermon Text

Jer. 31:15-17

Cheri Dennis

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

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

“Weeping with Hope”

Cheri Dennis

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

Jesus came not to be served but to serve. Thank you for giving us resources to share with a hurting world. May our offerings assist us in continuing Christ’s work in the world to heal the grief, transgressions and illness that oppress and harm your creation. 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 497

“Guide My Feet”

GUIDE MY FEET

Guide my feet while I run this race, (3x) *echo: Yes, my God,*
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand while I run this race, (3x) For I...
I'm your child while I run this race, (3x)...
Stand by me while I run this race, (3x)...

* Benediction

Cheri 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

“Praise God! Praise God!”

arr. M. Hayes

Songs in this service are used by Permission.
CCLI License #11439355; CSPL164710

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.

HOLY COVENANT UCC OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE - WE NEED YOU!

Where is God Calling YOU to Serve at Holy Covenant? During October as each of us prayerfully consider meaningful ways that we can contribute our stewardship of faith, time and talents at our church, we want to share information about each of our Ministry Teams. There is a team waiting for you to join in being the hands and feet of Christ through ministry work. [Please review this information](#) and let Tom Magraw at tmagraw@aol.com our Nominations team chair, or Pastor Cheri at cherid@holycovenantucc.org know of your interest. And if you are currently serving on a team and want to make a change, please let us know that as well. We look forward to connecting you with committed folks to work with in making a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you to each of you who have pledged. We are currently paced at 55% of goal for General Fund, and 49% of goal for Building Fund.

You may submit your pledge by one of the following methods:

- 1- email your pledge to the church office at office@holycovenantucc.org;
- 2- mail your pledge to the church, Holy Covenant UCC, PO Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269; or,
- 3- submit your pledge online through the church website at holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/.

CHOIR IS RESUMING THIS WEEK! ALLELUIA! AMEN!

Join us this Sunday after worship for a one-hour choir rehearsal in the sanctuary to get our voices tuned up and ready for Advent and Christmas. We'll rehearse upper voices only Oct. 17 & 24th. We will wear masks during rehearsal. Please RSVP to Jon Weddell at jdw08629@gmail.com. Feel free to contact Jon with any questions or concerns.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

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. This offering will be received all during October.

SOJOURNERS CLASS SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM

Welcome to October. There are 31 days in October and 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs - this is our challenge this month - to read one chapter each day of October. Join us on Sunday morning at 9:45 in person in the Conference Room or via Zoom. Click [here](#) to join via Zoom. Or go to www.zoom.us and join with the Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762 and Passcode: 523903. For more information, contact Pastor Cheri at 704-519-6016, cherid@holycovenantucc.org.

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, Tina Dickens, Phil Kaveler, Barb Schneller, or Darline Warren. 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.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

I've realized over the past few weeks that I've been one of those who has learned to love staying home and working in my pjs, or old t-shirts and jeans but this week I tried something differing. I spent three days working in my office at the church. I didn't get many visitors but I enjoyed being there. So, I now have "official office hours" Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, usually 9 to 4 but it might be best to call ahead if you want to see me to make sure I'll be there. I look forward to visits, phone calls, and emails. Blessings, Pastor Cheri

JOIN GREENFAITH FOR GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION OCTOBER 18 - RALLY

Rally for Environmental Justice this coming Monday, Oct. 18th, noon to 1:30 at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center. Please see [the flyer](#) for more information.

<https://greenfaith.controlshift.app/events/faiths4climatejusticecharlotte>

**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 Kirchhoefner (Melissa Noll), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Michael & Chris Mele-
Wagner (Dominic Ciciollo), Robbie Middleton (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz),
Darrell & Jackie Reichert (Diane Neese), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda
Williams (John Rapp), Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-Knight)

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