



Silent Meditation

“After I submitted my short reflection [see 10/29/21 e-news], I noticed that the theme was All Saints Day. But in an odd coincidence, poet Wendell Berry moved me with the line in his poem: *Practice resurrection*. **Practice resurrection* seems to me the perfect description of All Saints Day. By Scripture, ritual, remembrances and songs, every All Saints Day service, we pay homage to those within our congregation and loved ones and friends, who have died in the previous year. We keep the memory of so many Saints in our garden, in bricks, benches, our memorial wall, but mostly in our hearts. May this time of contemplation and memory bless us all. We remember all those people that touched us in life and continue to be part of our church fabric after their death.”

~Melissa Noll

* “*Practice resurrection.*” is the last line of Berry’s poem:
Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

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

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL SAINTS DAY

October 31, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude

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

Martha Bomely

Introit

“Let Us Build a House”

ALL ARE WELCOME

Let us build a house where all are named,

Their songs and visions heard

And love and treasured,

Taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,

Prayers of faith and songs of grace;

Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

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

* Call to Worship

Terrence Hayes

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.

...

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

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection: shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living, articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.

One: We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.

Many: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witness...let us worship God with joy!

* Hymn 295

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

GRAND ISLE

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through,
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
For the God they loved and knew.
And one was doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
They were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one, too.

They loved their God, and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
And another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
There is no earthly reason, none in the least,
Why I shouldn't be one, too.

They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
In a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
For the saints are folk like you and like me,
And I mean to be one, too.

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Cheri Dennis

Patient, Forgiving Spirit, we come seeking your face. We hold on to ancient angers and hurts, and refuse to believe that you alone can make all things new. Like Mary and Martha, we have forgotten your promises of eternal life. Like the crowd that mourned for Lazarus, we have not believed that we would see your glory. Forgive our unbelief, O God. Bring us back, and restore our trust in you.

Assurance of Pardon (*Based on Revelations 21*)

Cheri Dennis

The Holy One shows us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth, where everyone will live in peace and blessing. Trusting in God's promise to wipe away all our tears, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. 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

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.

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 25:6-9

Terrence Hayes

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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.

* Sermon Text

John 11:32-45

Cheri Dennis

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

“Unbound to Serve”

Cheri Dennis

* Hymn 299

“For All the Saints”

SINE NOMINE

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
‘mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
Then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Remembering Our Saints

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

Provider God, with joy and thanksgiving we have and continue to offer to you the gifts you first gave us, our time, talents, and treasure. Show us how to use these gifts to spread your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Give us the courage to use these gifts to bring love and justice and peace for all. Amen.

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

For all the saints who showed your love
In how they lived and where they moved,
For mindful women, caring men,
Accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who love your name,
Whose faith increased the Savior’s fame,
Who sang your songs and shared your word,
Accept our gratitude, good Lord.

...

For all the saints who named your will
And saw your kin-dom coming still
Through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,
Accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love
Reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
Your life through theirs has hallowed ours. Amen.

* 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

*Songs in this service are used by Permission.
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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, Kathleen Smith, Jo Ann Jellison, Shakti Subramanian
Terrance Hayes, Anne Hayes

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? There is a team waiting for you! [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 96% of goal for General Fund and 91% of goal for Building Fund. Submit your pledge online through the church website at holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/.

CHOIR REHEARSAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY

Join us after worship for a one-hour choir rehearsal in the sanctuary to get ready for Advent and Christmas. We do wear masks during rehearsal.

CROP HUNGER WALK 2021 (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) TODAY at 1:00 pm at Holy Covenant UCC

\$15 will provide chickens for a family. \$25 will provide a water filter for a home. \$50 will provide 2 months of groceries. Please support the walking team as you are able to help our neighbors in the continental US, Haiti and other hurricane damaged areas. Even \$5 will be awesome! 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.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION'S ANTI-RACISM JOURNEY

Last week, the Racial Justice and Equity team led two highly rated introductory discussions on Black fatigue, which refers to the daily stressors and experience of systemic racism. We want to thank the volunteers and participants who took part and announce that two more opportunities have been scheduled:

Wednesday, 11/17 at 7:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to join this meeting

Thursday, 11/18, at 7:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to join this meeting.

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 with your date preference [here](#). Contact Holly Middleton at hsmiddleton@gmail.com with any questions.

CARING FOR OUR LOCAL STUDENTS

Support the Backpack Ministry at David Cox Elementary. We are collecting ready to eat healthy foods that a young student can prepare. Backpacks will be filled at UMC and distributed so the students have food for weekend and holidays away from their regularly prepared meals at the school. Often, younger siblings benefit from this program too. Your food contributions can be placed in the grocery cart of the gathering room. We'll do the rest!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to prayers@holycovenantucc.org.

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Joyce & Roy, Amanda & Jeremy (Ed Vickery), Martha (Kathleen Wagner), Mary Jo (Kathleen Wagner), Brian Beaver (Bob Saylor), Guy & Cena Brown (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Dennis Cloninger (Lisa Cloninger), Kathy (Basco) Craton (Diane Neese), Marian Dawson (John Rapp), Nikki Echeverri (Melissa Noll), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), Pat Key (Patti Key), Alec Kirchhoefner (Melissa Noll), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Michael & Chris Mele-Wagner (Dominic Ciciollo), Robbie Middleton (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz), Robert Plummer (Martha Bomely), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Tim & Shannon Ward (Laura Hankins), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-Knight)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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