



Silent Meditation

“The kingdom of God is for the broken hearted”

~Fred Rogers

“The kingdom of God is available to you in the here and the now. But the question is whether you are available to the kingdom. Our practice is to make ourselves ready for the kingdom so that it can manifest in the here and the now. You don’t need to die in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. In fact, you have to be truly alive in order to do so.”

~Thich Nhat Hanh

“Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end all his disciples deserted him. On the Cross he was utterly alone, surrounded by evildoers and mockers. For this cause he had come, to bring peace to the enemies of God. So the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes. There is his commission, his work. ‘The kingdom is to be in the midst of your enemies. And he who will not suffer this does not want to be of the Kingdom of Christ; he wants to be among friends, to sit among roses and lilies, not with the bad people but the devout people. O you blasphemers and betrayers of Christ! If Christ had done what you are doing who would ever have been spared’ (Luther).”

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

REIGN OF CHRIST/ THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 21, 2021, 10:55am

Prelude "This Is My Father's World" arr. RoJean Loucks
Jane Cooper, harp

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 "In the Misty Forest" Joanna Mell
Kristin Andes, harp

* Call to Worship Martha Bomely

One: Come to worship Jesus Christ, Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and who is to come.

Many: **We come to worship the one who rules justly.**

One: Come to worship Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth!

Many: **Bread of Heaven, God with us!**

One: Good Shepherd, True Vine!

Many: **Eternal Word, Great I AM.**

One: Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace!

Many: **We come to worship Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords!**

All: **To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen.**

* Hymn 420 "We Praise You, O God" KREMSER

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;

We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

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

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you never will forsake us,
And with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
And gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Eternal Monarch, you who rule over all of us with justice and care, we your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to your rule, that we do not always participate in your reign of equity and integrity, that we have not followed the example you set forth. Instead, we often place our trust in leaders who let us down, and in our own flawed leadership of others. Lead us, Christ our Sovereign, and set us on the path to righteous rule in all that we do. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Cheri Dennis

We who are dependent upon our divine ruler have Christ's example ever before us, to give us guidance and hope. Take heart that we are forgiven and may return to that example again. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Handbell Quartet

"Let All Things Now Living"

ASH GROVE

Bill Englebreth, Judah L. Jones, Dawn Robinson, Dawn Simmons, handbells

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

When we feel afraid, think we've lost our way,
Still you're there right beside us.
And nothing will we fear as long as you are near.
Please be near us to the end. (R)

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

Martha Bomely

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

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

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR
arr. K. Blackwell-Plank

*Kristin Andes, Kathleen Blackwell-Plank, Jane Cooper, Anne Olson, harp
Karl Plank, violin*

* Gospel Reading John 18:33-37 Cheri Dennis

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?’ Pilate replied, ‘I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’

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

“What a King We Have in Jesus!”

Cheri Dennis

* Offering Dedication (*in unison*) Cheri Dennis

Christ our sovereign and servant, you set forth a just and compassionate domain in which the needs of the vulnerable and the powerful hang in righteous balance. Lead us to gladly share what we have as we work toward Christ’s reign here on earth. May the gifts we have given be used to bring in your realm of truth. Amen.

* Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* Hymn 28

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, For the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, Over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, For a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, And for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.

* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* Benediction Response 497

GUIDE MY FEET

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

Postlude

“How Great Thou Art
Anne Olson, harp

arr. Jodi Ann Tolman

*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.

THANK YOU TO OUR HARP ENSEMBLE

We warmly welcome guest musicians today Anne Olson (a member of University City United Methodist Church), Jane Cooper (Hickory Grove Baptist), Karl Plank (St. Alban's Episcopal Church), and Kathleen Blackwell-Plank (St. Alban's), and our own Kristin Andes (Holy Covenant UCC). Thank you for contributing to the worshipfulness of today's service.

HOLIDAY LOVE OFFERING FOR OUR STAFF AND CLERGY

During this joyful time of year, we ask those of you who are able to consider contributing to a Holiday Love Offering for our HCUCC clergy and staff. The offering will be divided across all of our dedicated staff members. We have wonderful, dedicated leadership and support who work very hard to make Holy Covenant a place of welcome, warmth, and spiritual renewal. Please direct your gifts to either Martha Bomely or Kathi Smith, by December 12th which will allow time to organize and distribute gifts on December 19. Thank you for considering our church staff as you plan out your holiday giving plans. Offerings can be made electronically at [Venmo](#): @kathilouwho; [PayPal](#): @kathilouwho; [Cashapp](#): \$kathilouwho; [Zelle](#): 704-614-7674 Or by cash or check made out Martha Bomely or Kathi Smith (NOT the church) and either given to one of them at church, or mailed to Martha Bomely, 10918 Loudoun Lane, Charlotte, NC 28262

SANDWICH BUILD, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT HCUCC

Come and join us in making sandwiches and packing lunches for our yet-to-be-housed neighbors at A Roof Above. We will be starting at 10 am on Monday Nov 29 so please join us for an hour or three as we "chat and pack." This will be a 400 sandwich and 200 cookie bag morning so grab your masks and head over! Contact Suzanne at suzlam@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

IT'S ANGEL TREE TIME AGAIN!

We have adopted two refugee families headed by single moms this year who would love some gifts for their children. We will have Angel Tree tags with gift ideas at church as well as a Holy Covenant Angel Tree wish list on Amazon. The moms have asked for unwrapped gifts and we would like to have them ready

for delivery on Sunday, December 19. If you have any questions, please email Suzanne at suzlam@yahoo.com or Lisa at lisacmsw@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance for your Holy Covenant generosity!

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT GIVING TUESDAY!

Holy Covenant now has a [DonorsChoose giving page](#)! This will offer a way for members to directly donate to classroom projects at David Cox Road Elementary school, a Title I school in the HC neighborhood that we already serve through the backpack ministry. The HC DonorsChoose giving page will give us all a place to choose a classroom project, make a donation of any amount, and track our giving as a congregation. This will give us feedback on our impact in real time. The HC giving page collects projects from David Cox Road Elementary, but you may see a few projects from other schools. This is the result of user error (mine) that I haven't yet been able to correct. However, while we want to focus on David Cox, any school on the giving page is historically underfunded due to racial and economic inequality, and all donations will directly help the children and teachers of Charlotte. The Holy Covenant DonorsChoose giving page will be available for donations year-round and you can even set up a monthly donation. But consider making your first donation by Giving Tuesday, November 30. This way we can make a big impact on David Cox by Christmas! See projects on Holy Covenant's [DonorsChoose giving page](#). And as usual, consider buying your books from **Shelves**, Charlotte's only Black-owned bookstore: <https://shelvesbookstore.com/>. For questions or comments email Holly Middleton at hsmiddleton@gmail.com.

SOJOURNERS CLASS SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

Come join the Sojourners in our temporary stay in *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*, a new book by Diana Butler Bass. Come wonder with us about what Jesus could possibly need to be freed from. For more information, contact Cheri Dennis (704-519-6016, cherid@holycovenantucc.org)

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON HAITUS UNTIL DECEMBER 7

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

Lex Decker, JoAnn Jellison, Shakti Subramanian, Larry Winston
Kristin Andes, Bill Englebreth, Judah L. Jones,
Dawn Robinson, Dawn Simmons

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Carl & Phyllis Johnson, and the Carter family, in the death of Carl's sister, Ann Carter; 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

Joyce & Roy, Amanda & Jeremy (Ed Vickery), Martha (Kathleen Wagner), Mary Jo (Kathleen Wagner), Kathy (Basco) Craton (Diane Neese), Nikki Echeverri (Melissa Noll), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), Pat Key (Patti Key), Alec Kirchhoefner (Melissa Noll), Geraldine Mobley (Jeff Edwards-Knight), 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), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), 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