



Silent Meditation

Kindle thy light within me O God,
that the glow may be spread over all of my life...

More and more may thy light
give radiance to my flickering candle,
fresh vigor to my struggling intent
and renewal to my flagging spirit...
kindle thy light within me O God.

-Howard Thurman (From Meditations of the Heart)

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

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TRANSFIGURATION ~ BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February 27, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude

***“Siyahamba/Thuma Mina:
A Marriage of Africa & American Jazz”***

arr. M. Sedio

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Lisa Cloninger

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit

“Praise God’s Holy Name”

K. Hampton

Sing till the power of the Lord come down.

Shout Hallelujah! Praise God's Holy Name! (2x)

* Call to Worship

Jeff Edwards-Knight

One: Something drew us together this morning;

Many: Something we can't name but which we experience in worship.

One: Some holy mystery we call God;

Many: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus.

One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit;

Many: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and prepare us to love the world.

All: O God, you are beyond words and description, your love is beyond knowledge and explanation. Make our hearts ready to receive you. Change us, we pray, that our lives may reflect the glory of your transfiguration. We rejoice in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)
Siyahamba *hamba, siyahamba*
Ooo *hamba,*
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God. (2x)
We are marching *marching, we are marching,*
Ooo *marching,*
We are marching in the light of God. (2x)

We are singing in the light of God,
We are singing in the light of God. (2x)
We are singing *singing, we are singing,*
Ooo *singing,*
We are singing in the light of God. (2x)

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)
Siyahamba *hamba, siyahamba*
Ooo *hamba,*
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (2x)

Prayer of Confession

One: Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory. But then Peter wanted to stay. “It’s good for us to be here. Let’s get comfortable.” We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God. God knows this temptation of our hearts, so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

All: God of glory and light, forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves. Keep calling us down from our mountains of privilege. Keep expecting more of us as your disciples. Keep reminding us to listen to your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Barbara Thomas

One: Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, listen carefully for the love of God. Believe and accept God's love and live in God's freedom.

All: We believe! Thanks be to God!

Response "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Christ, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end, Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Children's Message

Laura Hankins

Song "I Love the Lord" R. Smallwood

I love the Lord, who heard my cry, and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.

I love the Lord, who heard my cry, and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Barbara Thomas

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 "Listen, God Is Calling" NENO LAKE MUNGU

Listen, Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

Many: Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and, in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, ‘Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.’ Jesus answered, ‘You faithless and perverse generation, how much

longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.'

One: For the blessings of God in scripture, for the blessings of God among us, for the blessings of God we experience.

Many: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Breakthrough"

Barbara Thomas

Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

The needs of the world are too numerous to name. Shelter, food, clear air and water, justice and peace for all. Bless the gifts that have been given that they may touch these needs. May they represent the beginning of our journey to show your love to the world. Amen.

* Doxology

THANK YOU LORD

Thank you, Lord. (3x) I just want to thank you, Lord.

Hymn 593

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,

Come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

* Benediction Response

AMEN, SIAKUDUMISA

Translation: Let's say, "Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God."

Masithi! Amen, siakudumisa!
Masithi! Amen, saikudumisa!
Amen, bawo. Amen, bawo.
Amen, siakudumisa!

Postlude

"Siyahamba"

arr. M. Sedio

*Songs in this service are used by Permission.
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*Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness
and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video
may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our
official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published,
please contact the church office by phone or email.*



Join us Wednesday evening,
March 2nd, at 7PM for in-person worship.

Come prepared to remember your own mortality and
prepare your heart and mind
for the penitential season of Lent.

We will follow the Korean custom of Han-Puri,
a practice to bring healing and wholeness by
naming and burning the words
for that which stands in our way.

We will also offer the imposition of ashes.

LENT

— 40 days of Renewal —

Holy Covenant begins our observance of Lent on Wednesday, March 2, with the Ash Wednesday service. In addition to our regular Sunday morning services, there will be some Lenten disciplines and opportunities; more information will be forthcoming. As in previous years, daily meditations from the UCC's Stillspeaking Writer's Group will be posted on the Holy Covenant UCC Community Facebook group & also the church's website. Additionally, we will make available print copies of the daily meditation guide for those who prefer or need that.

Lent is often associated with giving up something, such as a food or a habit. It seems that we have all given up, although not voluntarily, too many things in the past two years. If giving up chocolate or alcohol works for you as a way to move toward mindfulness, then do that. But some find it helpful to add a practice, such as a daily walk or writing time, to create a positive space for reflection. So if that works for you, do that. A Facebook page called Doubting Believer advocates, especially now, the concept of a gentle Lent. The purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the joy of Easter, to give us a glimpse of the love Christ has for us and put us in a space to receive the gift of new life to which we awaken on Easter and every morning.

Lent: Wednesday, March 2—Saturday, April 16

Palm Sunday: April 10

Maundy Thursday: April 14

Easter (Resurrection) Sunday: April 17

How will you renew your spirit this Lenten season?

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

WELCOME BACK REV. BARBARA THOMAS

Formerly Associate Pastor at HCUCC, Barbara has devoted much of her ministry to walking with the underserved. She is currently Program Director of Charlotte Rescue Missions' Dove's Nest, which provides addiction treatment for women & their children who have experienced homelessness. Prior positions include 8 years as Director of Services at Urban Ministry Center (now A Roof Above) & several years as SE Regional Director of Church World Service, supporting efforts to provide solutions for poverty & hunger. Barbara previously pastored a Presbyterian church in upstate New York. She also remains active as a psychotherapist & coach at the Counseling Center of Charlotte, offering training & visioning services for local non-profits. Rev. Thomas has an M.Div. from Duke and a Master's in Organizational Development from Queens. Barbara has been in Charlotte for 14 years; she is a member of & sings in the choir at New Emmanuel UCC.

This was written by church member Dr. Michael Yonkovig, whose family is from Ukraine.

The deep sadness I feel is shared by all Ukrainian Americans. Once again, our mother country is being attacked by a historical Russian thirst for our resources, our fertile land, and our geographic significance. The overwhelming force unleashed on Ukraine by a psychopathic despot will take the country's land and perhaps put a puppet government in place. These are the actions of psychopaths like Putin and Trump and there will always be dark forces like these at work in the world.

But the heart and soul of Ukraine will never succumb to Russian domination. The people will fight, probably in very secret underground ways. But fight they will. Survive they will. Just as they did through Russian Soviet domination.

So.....support Biden's efforts to make Russia a pariah country and do not fall for Fox News-like misinformation. Keep Ukraine in your prayers and speak out against all fascist groups.

Slava Ukraina! Glory to Ukraine!



MORE THAN JUST A SANDWICH BUILD, MARCH 3, 9:30AM

Looking for a socially distanced time of fun and fellowship? Join us the morning of March 3rd for the making of 300 bagged lunches including sandwiches for Roof Above. We'll be done by 11:30! Contact Suzanne Lamorey, SuzLam@yahoo.com for more information or to let her know of your interest.

SOJOURNERS CLASS SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM - Virtually Sundays in February

Everyone is welcome to join us via Zoom at 9:45 Sunday mornings by clicking [here:](#) or go to www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762 and Passcode: 523903. For more information, contact Cheri Dennis (704-519-6016, cherid@holycovenantucc.org)

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY TUESDAYS AT 12:15PM - Virtually

Zoom Meeting ID: 813 0509 4538 Passcode: 728201

For more information, contact Laura Hankins 704-724-1105, laura@hankins-clt.us)

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

Beth Sharp, Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins, Henry Hankins,
Meg Houlihan, Jo Ann Jellison, Eric Miner, Kathi Smith, Ed Vickery

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jon & Linda Heaslet, Jim Hong, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelsen, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Anita Taylor, Kathleen Wagner

Friends & Family Members

Faye Blakely (Diane Neese), Aurora, Rachel & Ryan Christian (Beth Sharp), Nikki Echeverri (Melissa Noll), Alicia Gibson (Jim Hong), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Donetta Halley (Ed Vickery), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Pat Key (Patti Key), Alec Kirchhoefner (Melissa Noll), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Geraldine Mobley (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Robbie Middleton (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz), Janey Pernice (Dawn Simmons), Mary Ellen Rice (Kathleen Wagner), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Kyle Simmons (Dawn Simmons), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller), Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-Knight)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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