



Silent Meditation

“Transformation is often more about
unlearning than learning”

-Richard Rohr

'Unlearning' requires that we acknowledge and
unlearn what that we have assumed is

'true' in order to learn
a new way of thinking and behaving.

~Richard Rohr

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

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 13, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "Meditation on *Gethsemane*" arr. E. Broughton

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

Introit "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" SOJOURNER

I want Jesus to walk with me; (2x)
All along my pilgrim journey,
Oh, I want Jesus to walk with me.

* Call to Worship Beth Sharp

One: Life is a journey, an everyday workshop for learning love, a continual opportunity to learn the way of peace.

Many: **We travel together, "seeking to do justice, to act mercifully, to walk humbly with God."**

One: We cherish this community, which offers us a context for our personal transformation and support for our political and social involvement in the transformation of the world.

Many: **We are brought together in the Spirit of God, to listen to each other's stories, to share each other's pain, to celebrate each other's joys, to acknowledge our complicity in the state of the world, to grow in grace, to receive forgiveness and to offer it to one another, to practice reconciliation and to demonstrate the authentic community of God.**

All: **Let us worship together. Let us sing; let our hearts dance; let our spirits weep; let our hearts laugh, let our minds clear, let our bodies be renewed; let our lives flow; let the journey continue.**

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

* Hymn 1

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving—to both great and small;
In all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
Then wither and perish—but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Call to Confession

Cheri Dennis

Prayer of Confession

"In an Age of Twisted Values"

CHURCH UNITED

In an age of twisted values, we have lost the truth we need.
In sophisticated language we have justified our greed.
By our struggle for possessions, we have robbed the poor and weak.
Hear our cry and heal our nation; your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.

Assurance of Pardon

Cheri Dennis

Response

"Nothing Can Trouble"

TAIZE

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.

Children's Message

Laura Hankins

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

"When Armies Scourge the Countryside"

PACE MIO DIO

**Where armies scourge the countryside, and people flee in fear,
Where sirens scream through flaming nights, and death is ever near.**

O God of mercy, hear our prayer. Bring peace to earth again!

**Where anger festers in the heart, and strikes with cruel hand;
Where violence stalks the troubled streets, and terror haunts the land: (R)**

**O God, whose heart compassionate bears every human pain,
Redeem this violent, wounding world till gentleness shall reign. (R)**

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

"Return to God"

M. Haugen

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy.
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 27

Beth Sharp

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! ‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

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

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

Song

“Change My Heart, Oh God”

E. Espinosa

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, oh God, may I be like you.

You are the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. (R)

* Hymn 455

"I Am Yours, O Lord"

I AM YOURS

I am yours, O Lord, I have heard your voice,
and it told your love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
drawn to you eternally.

Refrain:

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where you have died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to your precious, bleeding side.*

O the pure delight of a single hour
that before your throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with you, my God,
I commune as friend with friend! (R)

Consecrate me now to your holy work
by the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope;
let your will be done, not mine. (R)

There are depths of love that I cannot know
till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
till I rest eternally. (R)

* 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

"Deep River"

arr. T. Osman

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LONG HAUL: LENTEN [DAILY MEDITATIONS](#)

from the UCC's StillSpeaking Writer's Group? They are posted daily on the Holy Covenant UCC Community Facebook group & also the church's [website](#), HolyCovenantUCC.org.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING

The United Church of Christ's churches collect 5 special offerings each year. The first, *One Great Hour of Sharing*, helps us to deploy resources to people in need, from those in our own communities to those all around the world. When you give to OGHS, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, *Love remains*. We will take this offering now through March 27. You may write a check to Holy Covenant, and write OGHS in the memo line, or go directly to our website, <https://holycovenantucc.org/give-2/>. Thank you.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. -1 Cor. 13:13

CARING FOR OUR LOCAL STUDENTS

HCUCC's Missions & Justice Team partners with our neighbors at University City UMC to 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!

TUESDAY ACTIVITIES AT HCUCC!

LENTEN LABYRINTH WALK AND MEDITATION TUESDAYS, 12:00 TO 12:30

We'll meet in the Memorial Garden at noon for quiet mediation and labyrinth time. In the event of rain, we'll gather in the sanctuary.

CRAFTER'S CIRCLE TUESDAYS 1:30 - 3:30

Join us in the gathering room on Tuesdays at 1:30. Bring a craft, share a craft, or learn a craft in a judgement free zone. Masks are required.

SOJOURNERS CLASS SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

Everyone is welcome to join us both in-person or 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, MOVES TO EVENINGS, TUESDAYS, 7-8 PM

We'll be studying the book of Galatians. All are welcome! Join us on Zoom: Meeting ID: 863 0293 0259 Passcode: 837569 Questions? Contact Laura Hankins, laura@hankins-clt.us.

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 Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Anita Taylor, Kathleen Wagner

Friends & Family Members

Faye Blakely (Diane Neese), 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), 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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