



Silent Meditation

"Nothing brings to life again a forgotten memory like fragrance."

—Christopher Poindexter

"Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present."

—Albert Camus

"Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity."

—Simone Weil

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

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

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

April 3, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "O Love, How Deep" arr. M. Dorian

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

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 Phil Kaveler

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 417

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

BEGINNINGS

**This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

**In faith we'll gather 'round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings—our God is making all things new.**

Call to Confession

Cheri Dennis

Prayer of Confession "In an Age of Twisted Values"

CHURCH UNITED

**We have built discrimination on our prejudice and fear.
Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty if we hold resentments dear.
For communities divided by the walls of class and race,
Hear our cry and heal our nation; show us, Lord, your love and grace.**

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 Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the Kingdom, 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

Isaiah 43:16-21

Phil Kaveler

Thus says the Lord,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.

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

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

Hymn

“When God Restored Our Common Life”

RESIGNATION

(*Psalm 126*)

When God restored our common life, our hope, our liberty,

At first it seemed a passing dream, a waking fantasy;

A shock of joy swept over us, for we had wept so long;

The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.

**We went forth weeping, sowing seeds in hard, unyielding soil;
With laughing hearts we carry home the fruit of all our toil.
We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.
The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.**

**Great liberating God, we pray for all who are oppressed.
May those who long for what is right with justice now be blest.
We pray for those who mourn this day, and all who suffer wrong;
May seeds they water now with tears spring up into a song.**

* Gospel

John 12:1-18

Cheri Dennis

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.' When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Offering Dedication (*in unison*)

Phil Kaveler

Mary loved Jesus and showed it in the gift of her expensive anointing oil. Anoint these gifts, Generous God, that they may fulfill your purpose. Through the pouring out of our financial resources, unique passions and skills, and faithful companionship with our community, may we impart hope, render joy, and participate in your kingdom. Amen.

* Doxology

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because God’s given Jesus Christ, God’s Son. (2x)

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”

Let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” (2x)

Give Thanks.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Handbell Choir

“Holy Manna”

arr. M. L. Thompson

One: The Holy One be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

Many: We open our hearts to you, O God.

One: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

One: On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant." Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and make this bread and this cup sustenance for our Lenten journey. By your grace, may we experience anew the call you place on our lives to serve one another. In feasting at your table, may our hearts be filled with courage once again to follow Christ, come what may.

Distribution of Elements

Prayer After Communion (*in unison*)

God, your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey with Christ towards justice. Amen.

* Hymn 456 "More Love to You, O Christ" MORE LOVE TO YOU
More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!
Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew.

Refrain: In all I say and do, more love, O Christ to you,
More love to you, more love to you!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now you alone I seek, give what is best: (R)
Then shall my latest breath whisper your praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise: (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 "Lead Me to Calvary" arr. L. Shackley

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

*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.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

IN-PERSON WORSHIP UPDATES

We are pleased to welcome in-person activities back to our church building. Masks are optional for worship services and other activities in the building; however, we encourage members who may be immunocompromised or in a high-risk group to continue to wear a mask. We also ask that you mask if you have had exposure to others with respiratory illness or are awaiting COVID test results. We continue to spread out seating in the sanctuary during worship and have cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer available at several points in the building. We look forward to seeing you soon! Please direct any questions or concerns to Consistory President, Lisa Cloninger at lisacmsw@hotmail.com or 704-516-0322.

CUSTOM CHURCH APP

We were recently informed by the software vendor, *Subsplash*, that the **Custom Church App (CCA)** mobile device application was discontinued as of **April 1**. HCUCG made an investment in this app several years ago in an effort to expand our reach using more contemporary technologies, however, the app never really made an impact as we had hoped. We apologize for any inconvenience. The *Subsplash* vendor has many technology offerings that enable churches to participate in the digital age of today, including a very robust but more costly replacement for CCA. HCUCG will continue to use the *Subsplash Giving "Wallet"* software actively to accept donations - *this feature is not impacted by the CCA change*. The Communications Team and church leadership will review and consider other *Subsplash platforms/features* for HCUCG in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dominic Ciciollo, dominic@holycovenantucc.org, or the church office.

CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS GAME, SATURDAY MAY 14, 7PM

Play ball! The evening game starts at 7pm; Charlotte Knights vs Indianapolis Indians. Tickets may be \$21 each for a group of 20+ people and loaded with a \$2 concession stand credit. Sign up by April 11! Payment info will be sent in an email then. Questions? Please contact Martha Bomely, martha.bomely@gmail.com. Sign up genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-charlotte>

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 filled at UMC are distributed so the students have food for weekend/holidays away from their regularly prepared meals at the school. Often, younger siblings benefit from this program too! Drop off your contributions in the grocery cart of the gathering room. We'll do the rest!

TUESDAY ACTIVITIES AT HCUC!

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.

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.

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)

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

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Tammie Holt, Autumn Holt,
Jo Ann Jellison, Shakti Subramanian

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Patti Key & Pam Zinkann in the death of Patti's mother, Pat Key
Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jon & Linda Heaslet, Jim Hong, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Anita Taylor, Kathleen Wagner

Friends & Family Members

Emily (Kim Tyler), Faye Blakely (Diane Neese), Keith Decker (Kevin Decker) Gretchen Calder (Martha Bomely), Nikki Echeverri (Melissa Noll), Alicia Gibson (Jim Hong), Marquis Glenn (Dawn Simmons), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Donetta Halley (Ed Vickery), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Alec Kirchhoefner (Melissa Noll), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Geraldine Mobley (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Joe Parks (Beth Christian Sharp), Janey Pernice (Dawn Simmons), Betty Rivenbark (Jeff Rivenbark), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Kyle Simmons (Dawn Simmons), Sylvia Smith (Laura Hankins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller) Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-Knight)

