



Silent Meditation

“And yet Christians celebrate Palm Sunday year after year. Don’t we believe that something monumental happened when the King of Kings eschewed the warhorse to ride a peace donkey? Don’t we at least believe Jesus offers us an alternative to all those dudes with their horses, tanks and ICBMs? We must believe it! The Palm Sunday shout is hosanna! It means “save now.”

— Brian Zahnd

“It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ.
My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt.”

— Fyodor Dostoevsky

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PALM & PASSION SUNDAY**

April 10, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "All Glory, Laud and Honor" arr. J. Carter

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Choral Introit "All Glory, Laud and Honor" arr. M. K. Beall

* Call to Worship Ed Vickery

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud Hosanna!

Many: **Blessed is the one who comes.**

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud Hosanna!

Many: **May the rivers of justice run.**

One: Children singing, families dancing,

Many: **The elders give a shout!**

One: Peace in heaven, glory in the highest!

Many: **Even the stones cry out!**

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud hosanna!

Many: **May our refrain never cease.**

One: Not by power nor by might,

Many: **But the way that makes for peace.**

All: **Hosanna to the Holy One. Hosanna! Shouts of praise!**

Come, we cry. Lord Jesus, come! We gather in Your Name.

* Hymn 213 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" ELLACOMBE

"Hosanna, loud hosanna" the little children sang;

Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;

To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,

The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

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

**From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
And glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"**

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.**

**We who hear your word so often choose so rarely to obey.
Turn us from our willful wandering; give us truth to light our way.
In the power of your Spirit come to cleanse us make us new.
Hear our cry and heal our nation; till our nation honors you.**

Assurance of Pardon

Cheri Dennis

Response "Nothing Can Trouble"

TAIZÉ

**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 Kindom
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
Kindom, 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.

Reading from Psalms Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Ed Vickery
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’ Open to me the gates of
righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This
is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the
Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you,
O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.
The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with
branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks
to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is
good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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

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

Hymn 11 “Bring Many Names” WESTCHASE
Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
Planning all the wonders of creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
Feeling all the strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

* Gospel

Luke 19:28-40

Cheri Dennis

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

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.

Sermon

“A Foolish Errand”

Cheri Dennis

Offering Dedication

Ed Vickery

One: Hosanna to the God who loves us, who heals us, who calls us to give ourselves for the sake of the world. **All:** When we were afraid, God, you became our fortress. When we were lost, God, you were our way. When we were alone, God, you were there beside us.

All: In you, we live. In you, we move. In you, we are made whole. You have showered us with blessing. We offer our gratitude. Hosanna in the highest! May the gifts we have received as individuals and as a congregation be used to bring healing, wholeness, and joy to the world God so dearly loves. 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.

Palms to Passion

Cheri Dennis

* Hymn

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my God should take frail flesh and die?

Christ came from heaven’s throne salvation to bestow,
But people scorned and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they threw down palms and sweetest praises sang.
Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
And for his death they thirst and cry.

What has my Sovereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
Christ gave new strength to run, restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease and ‘gainst Christ rise.

* Choral Anthem

“And No Bird Sang”

D.E. WAGNER

PALM-PASSION-RESURRECTION SERVICE CONTINUES THURSDAY AT 7 PM.

Maundy Thursday: April 14, worship 7PM

Easter (Resurrection) Sunday: April 17 worship 10:55AM

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.

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. Please direct any questions or concerns to Consistory President, Lisa Cloninger at lisacmsw@hotmail.com or 704-516-0322.

USHERS, GREETERS, LITURGIST AND COMMUNION SERVERS

We are expanding the list of those needed to make worship happen! We are encouraging sign ups of **greeters and ushers**, ready to welcome and help members and guests starting at 10:30 every Sunday; a **liturgist** to serve with Pastor Cheri; and **communion servers (elders) and clean up**. Everyone is welcome in these roles! If you need an explanation of the mechanics of this please indicate that in the comments on the sign-up and we will make sure you are comfortable on your first Sunday. Ushers and Greeters, please contact Martha Bomely with questions, martha.bomely@gmail.com. Elders, please contact Laura Hankins with questions, laura@hankins-clt.us. SignUpGenius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-ushers>

2022 AIDS WALK, MAY 7

The 2022 Aids Walk will be on Saturday May 7. Our church raised over \$700 last year in support of the AIDS walk and this year it is in person and we can walk together. Please join us! Questions? Contact Debbie Davis debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com Thank you for your prayers and support!
AIDS WALK Charlotte 2022 - Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

LAST CALL FOR SIGN UP - CLT KNIGHTS GAME, SATURDAY MAY 14, 7PM

Charlotte Knights vs Indianapolis Indians. Sign up by April 11! 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. Drop off your contributions 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

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

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY, TUESDAY EVENINGS, 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, Henry Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison,
Shakti Subramanian, Deb Winston, Laurence Winston

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), Sylvia (Kathleen Wagner), Faye Blakely (Diane Neese),
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), Jerry Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Betty Rivenbark (Jeff Rivenbark),
Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Kyle Simmons (Dawn Simmons), Sylvia Smith
(Laura Hankins), Joyce Tyler (Bill Tyler), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Tamber
Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), John Zastrow (Barb
Schneller), Paul Zinkann (Pam Zinkann), Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-
Knight)

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

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Cheri Dennis, Interim Pastor

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