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Silent Meditation

“Jesus’s resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.” – N.T. Wright

“The day misspent, the love misplaced, has inside it the seed of redemption. Nothing is exempt from resurrection.” – Kay Ryan

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

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
EASTER / RESURRECTION SUNDAY

April 17, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" arr. M. Hayes

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Many: **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Choral Introit "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" arr. S.D. Wolff

* Call to Worship Mary Claiborne

One: This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Many: **We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

One: Out of the doom of death and despair, victory comes, glory appears.

Many: **We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

One: We shall live, witness, and recount the deeds of the God whose love endures forever.

Many: **We gather today to shout Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.**

All: **O, Redeeming God, like Mary of Magdala weeping at the tomb, we, too, have witnessed the wonders of your work with our own teary eyes. In this hour, O God, elevate us in Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit, so that others may be awakened through our preaching and proclaiming the good news: news of healing, peace, justice, and community for all people. Amen.**

* Hymn 233 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

Call to Confession

Cheri Dennis

God, you call us to step out of the tombs that aim to consume us and more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence. In stillness and in silence, let us acknowledge the ways we have been separated from the richness of who you have called us to be.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We admit that we have not always remembered the creative power of resurrection. In a world where dreams and joy have been entombed, and chaos is celebrated and normalized, we have not always considered the divine ingenuity at work that calls us toward the ways of peace, love, and hope. Although we may have strayed from the places where we meet you, we trust that not even death can separate us from you and the creative ways you show your love for us.

Assurance of Pardon

Cheri Dennis

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

Handbell Choir “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands” arr. M. L. Thompson

*Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet and saving those who fall;
Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all.*

*Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I’m gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

Response

“O Lord, Hear Our Prayer”

TAIZÉ

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.

Come and listen to me.

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 Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Mary Claiborne

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’ The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: ‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.’ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. 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.

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

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

Song

“Ain’t No Grave”

D. Crowder, H. Bentley, and S. Philpott

(edited by Jared Fischer)

O, my Lord, it's a winding road
And my heart aches from a heavy load.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
But ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

O, my Lord, I can barely sing
Waiting on You and Your reckoning.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

Chorus: I will rise! I will rise! (2x)
Trouble comes for everyone;
Death has no respect for love.
Roll that stone I won't be found;
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

Lord, I'm crooked from head to toe
And whether death takes me fast or slow
You'll raise me then and you'll raise me now!
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down! *Chorus*

Oh my Lord, I can barely see
Through the fog pressing in on me.
Angels humming, can you hear the sound?
Ain't no grave gonna **HOLD ME DOWN.**

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:1-12

Cheri Dennis

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this

to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

“It Can’t Be!”

Cheri Dennis

Offering Dedication

Mary Claiborne

One: The gifts that we bring to this community compound and create resurrection power, helping us to awaken wholeness in the broken, strength in the weakened, and liberation for all living in the midst of injustice.

All: We dedicate our offerings and the work of our hands and feet to the resurrection work of bringing in God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. May they be used in the struggle for peace and justice for which Christ died and now lives again. In the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.

* Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” 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!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation

One God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us lift up our hearts and give thanks to God who meets us where we are. Holy and loving God, we offer thanks for this day—for the beauty of the earth, for your love and care for every creature, for this table that is before us.

Many: We give thanks for the community of Holy Covenant that surrounds this table.

One: We give thanks for those who join us in communion through live-stream.

Many: And we give thanks for the community of Christians around the world that join us today in celebrating the Risen Christ.

One: We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this beautiful mosaic of humanity.

Many: We offer prayers for those without tables to gather around, without food to eat, without beverage to quench their thirst. Communion and community are for them too. We are humbled by this reality.

One: As we prepare to receive this gift of grace, remind us to be gracious with one another. Meet us in our striving, and hear us as we pray the words that Jesus taught his disciples:

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

Music during Communion

COME, SHARE THE LORD

“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name”

We gather here in Jesus’ name;
Christ’s love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For through Christ’s sacrifice, the whole wide world unites.
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

Christ joins us here; and breaks the bread;
Our God who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

We are now a family, of which our God is head.
Though unseen, Christ meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon in glory rise;
We'll see the wonder of our God and of our Christ.
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Our Creator, our Savior, our Sustainer, in this holy mystery you have given yourself to us. We are eternally grateful. Empower us, that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves to each other in the name of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us. Amen

* Hymn 198 "Lift High the Cross" CRUCIFER
Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God. (R)

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. (R)

O Christ, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. (R)

Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease,
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace. (R)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. (R)

Benediction Cheri Dennis

Choral Benediction Response arr. G. M. Martin
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Postlude "Praise God! Praise God!" arr. M. Hayes

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

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison, Shakti Subramanian, Suzanne Lamorey, Jean Raley-Dennis, Anne Hayes, Mary Claiborne, Kristin Andes, Terry Raley-Dennis, Martha Bomely, Terrence Hayes

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](#)

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!

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 Galatians 3. 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)

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), Martha Catul (Cheri Dennis), 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,