



Silent Meditation

"One does not surrender a life in an instant. That which is lifelong can only be surrendered in a lifetime. Nor is surrender to the will of God (per se) adequate to fullness of power in Christ. Maturity is the accomplishment of years, and I can only surrender to the will of God as I know what that will is."

— Elisabeth Elliot

"To follow Jesus means to follow Jesus into a society where justice rules, where love shapes everything.

To follow Jesus means to take up his dream and work for it."

— Scot McKnight

"To be comforted by God is a promise that few of us ever receive, because we are consumed with controlling our situations to avoid being vulnerable."

— E'yen A. Gardner

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 1, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" arr. M. Hayes

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Many: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Introit "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" arr. M. A. Miller

There's a spirit of love in this place. (2x)

You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.

There's a spirit of love in this place.

There's the presence of peace in this room. (2x)

In God's tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds.

There's the presence of peace in this room.

* Call to Worship Eric Miner

One: Holy One, Provider

Many: Our ever-present help

One: In our emptiness

Many: You remind us of your presence

One: In your abundance

Many: You remind us you are here

One: With a love that conquers death

Many: You remind us we are yours

One: Holy! Holy! Holy!

Many: To the Ever-present One

All: Amen.

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

Invocation (*unison*)

Eric Miner

The Risen One is with us. Your ways are ways of justice. Your ways are ways of peace. Your ways are ways of love. In you, our hearts are full. In your ways, we will follow.

* Hymn

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

HYMN TO JOY

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lover of Creation, forgive us. We have not loved ourselves. We have not loved our neighbors. We have not followed in your ways. We have rebelled against your love. Forgive us. Engage us. Reshape our imaginations. Trade our complacency for your courage, our pettiness for your possibility, our greed for your goodness, our aimlessness for your adventure, our lives for your love.

Hymn 188

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

DOUROUX

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow you.

Assurance of Pardon

Cheri Dennis

One: Open your hearts. Hear the good news. God has not abandoned us. God has not sent us out to find our own way. God is with us, all around us, at work within us. In the name of all that is, you are welcome into the grace, mercy, and forgiveness of the Creator of our hearts

Many: **Glory to the Giver of Life.**

All: **Amen.**

Response

“Oh How Good Is Christ the Lord”

OH QUE BUENO

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.

He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus.

Glory be to Jesus! Glory be to Jesus!

In three days, he rose again. Glory be to Jesus!

Children’s Message

Laura Hankins

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*) - from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

LEMMELE

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in God’s wonderful face,

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of God’s glory and grace.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?'

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

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

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

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

Eric Miner

O God, in a world that lives out of scarcity, you call us to a life of abundance. You offer grace and mercy. You heal us. You carry us. In you, we live. In you, we move. In you, we are made whole. We dedicate the gifts we have given to the work of your kingdom. May they be used to bring life and love and liberation to this world that you, O God, so dearly love. Amen.

* Doxology

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: 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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

Hymn 337 during Communion

UNION SEMINARY

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

**Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in your name
Two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment’s hem.**

**As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Giver, break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.**

**All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We may serve with faith anew.**

Prayer after Communion (*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

"The Summons"

KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around?
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* Benediction Response

"The Summons"

KELVINGROVE

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name!
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Postlude

"The Summons"

arr. C. E. Walz

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

Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins,
Jo Ann Jellison, Dawn Robinson, Shakti Subramanian

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Cheri Dennis, Interim Pastor
Jon Weddell, M.Div, MSW, Minister of Music
Dawn Simmons, BSBF, Executive Assistant
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

2022 AIDS Walk, May 7

Please join our team to walk or donate

<https://p2p.onecause.com/aidswalkclt/team/holy-covenant-united-church-of-christ> Contact Debbie Davis debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com Thank you for your prayers and support!

The Michael G. Brooks Scholarship 2022-23 Announcement

The purpose of the Michael G. Brooks Scholarship Fund is to encourage youth in both their educational growth and their service to God. Scholarship funds up to approximately \$2,000 will be considered annually for all applicants. Contact the church office or Dawn Robinson, DrRobinson0415@gmail.com for the Process and Procedures document for this scholarship and the application.

Weekday activities at HCUCC!

The Labyrinth Group meets Thursdays. Join us at noon for some quiet time in nature. Melissa Noll and Laura Hankins will co-lead. In the event of rain we'll meet in the sanctuary for guided meditation and a finger labyrinth.

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 Resumes May 1

The Sojourners Class resumes this Sunday, May 1, at 9:45 AM in the Conference Room, or via Zoom. We are currently reading *The New Monasticism: What It Has to Say to Today's Church* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. This Sunday we're discussion Chapters 3 & 4. For more information, contact Pastor Cheri at 704-519-6016 or cherid@holycovenantucc.org.

Caring for Our Local Students. HCUCC's Missions & Justice Team is partnering 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!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Laura Hankins, 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), Sandy Burby (Linda Burby), Gretchen Calder (Martha Bomely), Martha Catul (Cheri Dennis), 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)