



Silent Meditation

“I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.”

— Rainer Maria Rilke

“To love another person is to see the face of God.”

— Victor Hugo (*Les Misérables*)

“I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, He will not ask, ‘How many good things have you done in your life?’ rather He will ask, ‘How much love did you put into what you did?’”

— Mother Teresa

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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HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 22, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" arr. J. Vogt

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 & Invocation Martha Bomely

Many: **Let the Creator be home among us.**

One: In our hearts, may God be welcome.

Many: **May God's love shape our every thought.**

One: May our actions lead to God's justice.

Many: **May our words be words of life.**

One: May God's Spirit lead us.

Many: **May God's peace dwell within us.**

One: God's love is our nourishment.

Many: **God's truth, our liberation.**

One: God's words, our wisdom.

Many: **God's peace, our home.**

One: Welcome to the love of God.

All: **Amen.**

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

* Hymn 276 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH
Holy God, we praise your name; Sovereign God, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim, all the heavenly hosts adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the glad celestial hymn angel choirs around are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with joys aflame: holy, holy is your name.

All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the blessed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.

Holy Parent, Holy Christ, Holy Spirit, Three we name you,
While in essence truly one, undivided God we claim you;
So we gather reverently to adore the mystery.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We have not yet learned to love as you love. We have spoken praise in our mouths, when our hearts were far from you. The gifts you gave for our peace, we have weaponized, yet, even in our failings your love has never failed us. Even when we turned you away, You still choose to make your home among us. Our hearts are troubled. We are enmeshed in fear. Creation needs you. Our families need you. Our streets need you. Our cities need you. The soil needs you. Our souls need you. Heal us. Forgive us. Make us whole again.

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: Beloved of God, hear the good news. God's faithfulness is sure.
God's love will not fail us. In accordance with God's lovingkindness,
you are forgiven. You are welcome. You are home.

Many: Glory to the God of love. 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

Hymn 478

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

SPIRITUAL

**I’ve got peace like a river (3x) in my soul. *(Repeat)*
I’ve got joy like a fountain (3x) in my soul. *(Repeat)*
I’ve got love like an ocean (3x) in my soul. *(Repeat)***

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

The Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**Loving God, in whom is heaven, may Your name be honored everywhere.
May Your Kin-dom come. May the desire of Your heart for the world be
done, in us, by us, and through us. Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others. Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For you reign in the power that comes from love which is your glory forever
and ever. 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.**

New Testament Reading

Rev. 21:10, 22-27

Martha Bomely

**And in the spirit, he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me
the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.**

**I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the
Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of
God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and
the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut
by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and
the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who
practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the
Lamb’s book of life.**

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

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

Special Music

“Consider the Lilies”

N. Sleeth

Ed Vickery, Eric Miner, vocals, Bridget Green, flute

* Gospel Lesson

John 14:23-29

Cheri Dennis

Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

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

“May the Peace of Christ Be with You”

Cheri Dennis

Strengthen the Church Special Offering Video

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/strengthen-the-church/>

Offering Dedication

Martha Bomely

One: Our God does not give as the world gives.

Many: **In the chaos, God is our peace.**

One: In our fear, God is our confidence.

Many: **In our weakness, God is our strength.**

All: **In thanksgiving for these gifts of peace and strength, we now dedicate the gifts Holy Covenant has received to the work of building God’s kin-dom of justice and peace here on earth as it is in heaven. 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!

- * Hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth" WORLD PEACE
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
- Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with 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 "There's Within My Heart a Melody" SWEETEST NAME

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WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:
Kristin Andes, Lisa Cloninger, Dominic Ciciollo, Brian Hankins,
Henry Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison, Dawn Robinson, Shakti Subramanian

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

The Michael G. Brooks Scholarship 2022-23, Applications Due June 1

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!

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.

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.

Sojourners Class

The Sojourners Class meets Sunday mornings 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. For more information, contact Pastor Cheri.

Ushers, Greeters, Liturgist and Communion Servers

Please sign up on the SignUpGenius link:

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Cynthia & Tommy Simpson in the death of her sister, Mamie Stokes
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

Jeff Rivenbark and family in the death of Jeff's mother, Betty Rivenbark
Emily (Kim Tyler), Faye Blakely (Diane Neese), Sandy Burby (Linda Burby), Alicia Gibson (Jim Hong), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Donetta Halley (Ed Vickery), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Alec Kirchoefner (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), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), 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)

Black Fatigue Discussion Part II: June 5, 2022 After Worship

The Racial Justice and Equity committee invites you to join in a conversation regarding recognizing and responding to the reality of Black Fatigue. This is a follow up to last fall's Zoom discussion introducing Black Fatigue.

In this session, we will briefly revisit the definition of Black Fatigue, and then move onto discussion of scenarios, in small groups, that will aid participants in identifying circumstances that can lead to Black Fatigue. The groups then will address ways to support combatting Black Fatigue. You need not have attended the fall session to participate in the June 5 discussion. We will also provide a Zoom link if you are not able to attend in person. Please look for the link in the e-news and bulletin closer to the date.

Please plan on staying after service on June 5 for this event. We anticipate a 1 to 1.5 hour time frame. We hope to see you there!

Racial Justice and Equity Committee

If you'd like to learn more about Black Fatigue prior to the discussion, here are some resources:

Books

- ***Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit*** by Mary Francis Winters. Available on Kindle, Audible, Paperback.
- ***Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*** by Debbie Irving
- ***Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism*** by Shannon Sullivan

YouTube Videos

- **A selection from the book *Black Fatigue*** by Mary Frances Winters, narrated by Robin Miles - 5 minutes <https://youtu.be/Z5FDABcw0SQ>
- **An interview with Mary Frances Winters**, the author of *Black Fatigue* on the Karen Hunter show. Hunter is an American journalist and talk show host. - 19 minutes. <https://youtu.be/KMhDvaJx-CA>
- **Black Fatigue Can Not Be Fixed with A Nap, It's Chronic.** A dialogue between Mary Frances Winter and Dr. Shannon Sullivan, Chair of the Philosophy Department and UNC Charlotte and author of *Good White People*. This discussion goes deeper into understanding Black Fatigue and covers a range of terms you may find familiar such as white fragility, and concepts like inter-generational fatigue and Epigenetics. - 58 minutes. <https://youtu.be/Qv4-6xlqVVc>

