



## Silent Meditation

Why do you stay in prison when the door is so wide open?

Move outside the tangle of fear-thinking

Live in Silence.

Flow down and down

in always widening rings of being

Become the sky. Take an axe to the prison wall.

Escape

(Selected verses from the poetry of Rumi, Jelaluddin;  
The Big Red Book; Harper Collins 2011)

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 29, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "We Are an Offering" arr. L. Bergquist

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 Phil Kaveler

One: Today we open our hearts and minds to the presence of God.

Many: **May the God of healing, the God of hope, the God of comfort be with us on this day.**

One: Today we long for the transforming love of God to be made known in our brokenness.

Many: **May the God of resurrection be revealed to us this day.**

One: Today we approach God with humility and with Hope--

All: **May our longing for healing, for comfort, for the courage to be advocates of peace be heard by the God of peace. Let us worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

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

\* Hymn 382

“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”

MARCHING TO ZION

Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;

Together God's great love proclaim, (2x) and thus surround the throne. (2x)

*Refrain:* We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;

We're marching onward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;

But we our thanks and praise will bring, (2x) for love so deep and broad. (2x)(R)

God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glory sown;

Celestial fruits on earthly ground, (2x) from faith and hope have grown. (2x)(R)

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets;

Before we reach the heavenly fields, (2x) or walk the golden streets. (2x)(R)

**Prayer of Grief After School Shooting in Uvalde, TX - May 24, 2022**

*From the United Church of Christ*

*The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President*

*The Rev. Traci Blackmon and The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson*

*Associate General Ministers*

Phil Kaveler, Dawn Robinson

In utter and irrepressible grief, we offer these words, giving collective voice to the anguish we all feel.

**God, hear our prayer:**

For the nineteen children now dead;

For the teachers now dead;

For the parents, family, and friends who will spend the rest of their lives aching every night from the weight of this;

For a schoolhouse rendered trauma-laden and grief-stricken in a matter of minutes, whose students will suffer PTSD in the wake of this tragedy;

**God, hear our prayer:**

For the caregivers in Uvalde now burdened with the task of managing the shared and collective grief of a traumatized community who love their children;

For those who feel the new burden of useless guilt in the aftermath of this,  
wondering what else they could have done to prevent this;  
For the nation, so in love with our weapons that we continue to tolerate these  
mass shootings and the grief they inflict without ever building the collective  
will needed to address it fully;  
For the world, suffering a massive and collective grief of its own and witnessing  
acts of cruelty daily too numerous to fully process.  
**God, hear our prayer:**

Heal our gaping wounds.  
Restore our sense of compassion.  
Quiet the restlessness within us.  
Settle the building righteous anger.  
Quicken the desire for peace.  
**God, hear our prayer:**

Remove the chasm that sees race and religion and political persuasion as the  
marks of a person's worth and value.  
End the cycle of violence that begets more violence.  
**God, hear our prayer:**

Silence the voices that broker in fear and division and create the hatred we see  
mounting everywhere between us.  
Quiet the troubled soul thinking of grabbing the next gun and ending innocent  
lives.  
Empower us all to act now, refusing to wait for the next horror show before we  
change the laws that make guns and their discharge so accessible.  
**God, hear our prayer:**

Turn anguish to action; our rage to restoration; our hatred to love; our grief to  
hope.  
Let it never happen again. Ever. How much more can we bear, O Lord? How  
much more can we endure.  
**God, hear our prayer:**

Be our rock of refuge.  
Be our light of inspiration.  
Be our beacon of hope.  
Be the arms of love that hold us until the pain recedes.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.**

Hymn "O God Creator, Strong to Save" MELITA

O God Creator, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and wave submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude,  
And bade its angry tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

Pastoral Prayer

Barbara Thomas

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"

LEMMEL

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.

Of David, when he feigned madness before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.

I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the LORD with me,

and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,

and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;

so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,

and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the LORD encamps

around those who fear him, and delivers them.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,

and rescues them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the broken-hearted,

and saves the crushed in spirit.

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

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

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.**

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

**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

Dawn Robinson

\* 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!**

Litany of Farewell for Phil Kaveler

Debbie Davis

Worship Leader:

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share this time of farewell with long-time Holy Covenant member Phil Kaveler.

Phil joined Holy Covenant in 2000 and has been very active in the life of the church. Over the years, he has been part of many ministries & activities - singing in the choir, playing handbells, serving on Consistory and as its president, being an Elder, marching in Charlotte's Martin Luther King Day parades, participating in Care for the Earth activities, and coordinating Holy Covenant's volunteers for Urban Ministry's lunchtime devotions, to name just a few of his contributions. Phil and his wife Claudette have a son Andrew, who was brought up and confirmed at Holy Covenant and graduated from NC State. Phil and Claudette are moving to the Raleigh area to live closer to Andrew.

For a time, Phil has shared our common life. We have been with each other in good times and bad, in joys and sorrows. We have lightened each other's heavy loads. Together we have laughed and cried, together we have worshiped and praised God, together we have lived.

Phil:

I thank Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these years. I am grateful for the ways my gifts of ministry have been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**Congregation:**

**We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure. We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives.**

**All:**

**We will pray for you and for your family.**

**Worship Leader:**

**Let us pray. O God, you are the strength and the protector of your people. We humbly place in your hands, Phil, who is departing from us. Keep and preserve him, oh God, in all health and safety, both of body and soul. Amen.**

**All:**

**Go in the peace of Christ. Our prayers go with you. Amen.**

**Worship Leader:**

**Presentation of inscribed bell**

**In honor of Phil Kaveler/ For service above & beyond/ Your grateful HCUC family**

**\* Hymn 376**

**“God, We Thank You for Your People”**

**HOLY MANNA**

**God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,  
Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.  
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents’ parents praised;  
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.**

**Thank you, God for gentle pleasure; lessons learned and secrets told,  
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,  
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.  
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.**

**Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;  
Though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.  
Tempers racing, devil chasing, heart estranged by ice or flame  
You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!**

By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,  
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.  
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,  
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

\* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

\* 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

"Some Glad Morning"

I'LL FLY AWAY

*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.*

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

Christine Andersen, Mel Andersen, Lisa Cloninger, Dominic Ciciollo,  
Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins, Shakti Subramanian

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

**Important COVID Update, May 27, 2022**

***The Consistory voted this week to resume requiring masks during Sunday worship and all indoor activities in our church building effective immediately.***

While the CDC COVID-19 Community Level for Mecklenburg County is considered Low as of May 27, the COVID positivity rate for the county is currently slightly above 20% and on a gradual upward trend. Out of an abundance of caution, we are taking this action at this time as a preventative measure to protect the Holy Covenant UCC community.

When in-person activities were resumed at the beginning of March, Consistory used the criteria of a positivity rate below 10% in a downward trend with Community Level of Low as the deciding criteria after suspending in-person activities due to the January COVID-19 surge. While the current positivity rate and trend could imply we should suspend in-person activities based on the previous criteria that Consistory used, some characteristics of the pandemic are different now. Consistory will continue to closely monitor and assess the potential need to suspend in-person activities in the coming weeks.

We encourage attendees who are immunocompromised or fall into any other higher risk groups to use their discretion as to whether to attend in-person church activities. We will continue to spread out seating in the sanctuary during worship and will have cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer available at several points in the building. Live-streaming will continue for weekly worship services as always.

Please contact Consistory President, Lisa Cloninger if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Welcome Back Rev. Barbara Thomas**

Formerly Associate Pastor at HCUCC, Barbara has devoted much of her ministry to walking with the underserved. She currently serves as psychotherapist & coach at the Counseling Center of Charlotte while also working on a project to expand training to front line staff of local non-profits. She has served as Program Director of Charlotte Rescue Missions' Dove's Nest, Director of Services at Urban Ministry Center (now A Roof Above) & as SE Regional Director of Church World Service, providing solutions for poverty & hunger. Barbara previously pastored a Presbyterian church in upstate New York. Rev. Thomas has an M.Div. from Duke and a Master's in Organizational Development from Queens. She has been in Charlotte for 15 years and is a member of & sings in the choir at New Emmanuel UCC.

### **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](mailto:DrRobinson0415@gmail.com) for the Process and Procedures document for this scholarship and the application.

## Black Fatigue Discussion Part II: June 5 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. Use this Zoom link if you are unable to attend in-person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82684255063>

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>

### **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**

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, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Anita Taylor, Kathleen Wagner

### **Friends & Family Members**

Friends and Family of Alma Barringer (Robert Shepherd)

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), 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), 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)