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## Silent Meditation

“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.”

— Zora Neale Hurston

“Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one’s weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

“If you stumble about believability, what are you living for?  
Love is hard to believe, ask any lover. Life is hard to believe, ask any scientist.

God is hard to believe, ask any believer.

What is your problem with hard to believe?”

— Yann Martel

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
PENTECOST**

June 5, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" arr. J. Vogt

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis

Strengthen the Church Special Offering Video - Rev. Dorhauer

One: May the peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

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 Terrence Hayes

One: Divine Teacher, whirl around us with your wisdom,

Many: Divine Comforter, encircle us with the peace that comes only from you.

One: As the Holy Winds fill our lives with dreams, empower us to live God's hope in this world.

Many: As the Holy Fire fills our hearts with visions, empower us to create a world of justice and peace.

All: May the Divine Gales of this day move us to know the love of God.

\* Invocation Terrence Hayes

One: Holy Winds of Mystery, as the dawn breaks forth,

Many: your Spirit exhales your intentions for our world.

One: As new chapters and eras arise in our lives,

Many: your Spirit invites us to wisdom that only comes from you.

One: Open our souls to the wonders of your being.

Many: Settle our hearts when questions surround us.

All: Fill our minds with the knowledge that your Spirit will lead us forward. Amen.

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

\* Hymn 270

“Like the Murmur of a Dove’s Song”

BRIDEGROOM

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,  
Like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,  
To the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
With the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Prayer of Reflection and Growth

One: Loving God, Divine Comforter,

All: Peace is absent from our hearts. From pain to grief, and from  
turmoil to frustrations, we yearn for what we lack. We ache for the  
pains and injustices of this world to cease. What we forget is to  
pause and voice our concerns to you. How can we better integrate  
your presence in our lives? When have we forgotten to include you  
in our joys and heartaches? Move us to seek you and speak the  
burdens of our hearts to you. May your Spirit refill our souls with  
peace. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Cheri Dennis

The Spirit of God delivers grace and peace as we move through our journeys  
and inspires us to connect with God and neighbor to create a world of hope and  
joy. Amen!

Song

“You Are Good”

I. Houghton

Lord, you are good  
And your mercy endureth forever (*repeat*)

People from every nation and tongue  
From generation to generation

We worship you, hallelujah, hallelujah  
We worship you, for who you are

You are good all the time,  
All the time, you are good

Children's Message

Laura Hankins

Song

"Rain Down"

J. Cortez

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

The Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

Loving God, through the Spirit's revelation, may Your true nature be honored everywhere. May Your reign of love come. May desire of Your heart for the world be done, in us, by us and through us in the power of the Spirit. 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

OPEN MY EYES

Open our ears, that we may hear voices of truth you send so clear

And while the wave notes fall on our ears, everything false will disappear

Silently now we wait for you, ready, our God, your will to do.

Open our hearts; illumine us, Spirit divine!

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

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

Hymn

“Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”

ABERYSTWYTH

Wind who makes all winds that blow—gusts that bend the saplings low,  
Gales that heave the sea in waves, stirring in the mind’s deep caves—  
Aim your breath with steady power on your church, this day, this hour.  
Raise, renew the life we’ve lost, Spirit God of Pentecost.

Fire who fuels all fires that burn—suns around which planets turn,  
Beacons marking reefs and shoals, shining truth to guide our souls—  
Come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sacred flame!  
Light and Power, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.

Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame, move within our mortal frame.  
Make our hearts an altar pyre. Kindle them with your own fire.  
Breathe and blow upon that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways  
Speak that tongue which every land by your grace shall understand.

\* Gospel Lesson

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Cheri Dennis

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘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.

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

“Your Invitation to the Dance”

Cheri Dennis

Reflection on Giving & Blessing of Gifts

Terrence Hayes

**One:** Because of our love for the Divine Giver, we seek ways to share our love through our treasures, talents, and time. Whether we give in this hour or throughout this week, may we remember that God’s Spirit encircles these gifts with hope.

**All:** **Holy Winds of Excitement,** may the gifts we share today and throughout this week nudge us to dream your dreams. May our giving inspire us to embrace your visions for our world. Holy Spirit, enliven our souls to create your realm of justice and peace on earth. Amen.

\* Doxology

“Confitemini Domino”

TAIZÉ

*(translation: Give thanks to the Lord for God is good, Psalm 118:1)*

**Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus.**

**Confitemini Domino alleluia!**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Cheri Dennis

Come to this table where bread and cup are transformed by the Spirit of God into a meal of love and grace, a supper of visions and dreams, a table where all souls are welcome.

Prayer of Communion

**One:** Loving God, whose Divine lungs exhaled the Spirit into our world, your breath continues to transform our world from the still to the stirring. Before the earth was formed the Spirit of God swirled through voids and shadows. As humans were created, the air of God filled the lungs of Adam and the soul of Eve. This Divine Air continues to fill us up when our bones are dry and spirits are sluggish. On this day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the breath of the Spirit coming upon the disciples, we invite the Spirit to come upon these elements.

**Many: God of winds, pour out your Spirit to make the elements come alive for us. Make this meal awaken our sleepy hearts and stagnant souls. May this time of eating and drinking be one where we stir from our sadness and rise from our hopelessness. May we begin to celebrate visions and animate dreams that have only been alive in. As we share this meal, let us remember our siblings in faith who came to this table in decades and centuries past. And our children who will surround this table in the future. Each generation uniquely celebrates your presence, Spirit of Life.**

Words of Institution

Cheri Dennis

The night before Jesus died was a solemn time around the table. Breaking bread. Drinking from the cup. Jesus asking to remember him in our eating and drinking.

There was a time to mourn followed by a time to dance. After the day of resurrection, the disciples at on the beach with the risen Christ, celebrating new life, new hope, new vitality. On this Pentecost, as we come to the table, let us celebrate the Spirit of Resurrection and the promise of a needed second-wind in our own lives.

Let us partake of this celebratory meal together.

Distribution of Elements

Hymn during Communion 337 “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether” Union Seminary

**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 of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

**Spirit of God, who fed the multitudes, provided the manna in the wilderness, and blessed the elements, we give thanks for the meal eaten and the company surrounding us. Inspire us as we move forward this day and encourage us to transform our dreams into reality. Amen.**



## Ordination of Phyllis Johnson as Deacon

**Pastor:** Phyllis Johnson has been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of the church, to serve among us. She has accepted her call and we are here to witness to her willingness to serve.

**Lisa Cloninger:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service on the Consistory of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**Phyllis:** I am.

**Lisa Cloninger:** Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

**Phyllis:** I do, relying on God's grace.

**Pastor:** Members of this household of faith, you have heard Phyllis, our sister in Christ, who has answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with her.

**People:** We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

## Laying On of Hands

**Pastor:** The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you, Phyllis Johnson, as Deacon for Holy Covenant. Let us offer our prayers and blessing as a congregation:

**People:** **Eternal God, you have called Phyllis to server this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on her that she may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help her to be diligent in her duties, that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May her example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Lisa Cloninger:** In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, we rejoice to announce that you are ordained as Deacon and a member of the Consistory. May your service be a blessing and cause you to grow in wisdom and in grace. Amen.

\* Hymn 286

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

SPIRIT

*Refrain:*

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
And over the eons you called to each thing,  
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” (R)

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,  
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
When they were confounded by their idols and lies,  
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (R)

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
And down in the city you called once again,  
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (R)

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;  
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. (R)

\* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

\* Benediction Response

“Song of Hope”

ARGENTINA

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

Postlude

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

arr. J. Carter

*Service Prayers for Pentecost Sunday Year C & the Communion Liturgy  
were written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, Senior Pastor of  
St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, IL.*

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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:**

Lisa Cloninger, Lex Decker, Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins, Dominic Ciciollo, Dawn Schmitz; Ed Sharp, Anne Hayes, Shakti Subramanian, Jeff Hughes, Ed Vickery

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT**

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES UPDATE, JUNE 3, 2022

At this time, masks will continue to be required during Sunday worship services and all indoor church building activities out of an abundance of caution.

The Consistory continues to closely monitor COVID trends. As of June 3, the CDC COVID-19 Community Level for Mecklenburg County is still considered Low. The COVID positivity rate for the county is still currently slightly above 20% and has increased less than 1% during the past week.

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, [lisa@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:lisa@holycovenantucc.org), or 704-516-0322.

## **Black Fatigue Discussion Part II: Today After Worship**

**Please plan on for this event. We anticipate a 1 to 1 1/2 hour time frame. Light refreshments will be available.**

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.**

## **Bagged Lunch and Sandwich Build, June 18**

Saturday, June 18th, from 10-noon, we will assemble sandwiches and bagged lunches to be delivered to Roof Above. Supplies are provided, we just need YOU to help with the assembly! Please consider this time of fun and fellowship as part of being the hands and feet of Christ. Join us, won't you? Let Suzanne Lamorey know if you will participate, [suzlam@yahoo.com](mailto:suzlam@yahoo.com).

## **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.

## **Mid-week Bible Study**

Join the conversation! Study guides are available in the church office, or [contact us](#) and we'll send you one! We gather from the comfort of our homes, via Zoom, Tuesday Evenings, 7-8 PM.

Questions? Contact Laura Hankins, [laura@hankins-clt.us](mailto:laura@hankins-clt.us).

## **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 & Family of Alma Barringer (Robert Shepherd)

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 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)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to [prayers@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org).

#### 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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