



Meditation

"The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are so with one another that it seems they are in one another. And, to the extent that they are in one another, we call God not three, but one. These three are so with that they are one, three persons in one substance, always affirming one another's difference and distinctness in person and presence, but always bearing within one another the whole being of the other two persons. The Trinity is the perfect equilibrium of three persons so with that they are in, but in in such a way that they are still with."

– Samuel Wells

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
HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**

June 12, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "Holy, Holy, Holy" arr. M. Hayes

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

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.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, we bless your holy name.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, there's a spirit of love in this place.

There's a space for grace in our hearts. (2x)

It's in learning to forgive that our spirits truly live.

There's a space for grace in our hearts.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, we bless your holy name.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, there's a space for grace;

There's the presence of peace; there's a spirit of love in this place.

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

*** Call to Worship**

Terry Raley-Dennis

One: Wisdom calls and understanding speaks.

Many: **Majestic God, we recognize your voice.**

One: Creation declares your glory and humanity marvels at your care.

Many: **Merciful God, we rejoice at your works.**

One: Peace, endurance, character, and hope are gifts.

Many: **Mysterious God, we receive your love in thanksgiving.**

Invocation

Terry Raley-Dennis

God, our Potter, God, who becomes clay, God, who shapes us in the fire, we are made new in your presence. We come seeking your wisdom, crying out our concerns, needing your peace. Use this time to form us as community, connected through your breath, life, and hope that propels us as your body in the world. Amen.

*** Hymn**

"Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud"

ABERYSTWYTH

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud, Fortress, Fountain, Shelter, Light, Judge, Defender, Mercy, Might, Life whose life all life endowed:

Refrain: **May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name
But the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.**

**Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine, Shepherd, Savior, Servant, Lamb,
Well and Water, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM: (R)**

**Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove, Thunder, Tempest, Whirlwind, Fire,
Comfort, Counselor, Presence, Love, Energies that never tire: (R)**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Cheri Dennis

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, we confess that we do not always heed the wisdom you impart. We turn toward other marks and means of validation rather than toward you. We remain in awe of our own creation while devouring and decimating yours. Continue to call us, we pray, and to surprise and delight us at your magnificence and majesty. May we always be at awe of your glory and humbled by your nearness. Let our character be shaped toward hope and reflect your peace.

Assurance of Grace

Cheri Dennis

Receive the peace extended to us from the God of Grace who joined our embodied experience and who invites us to the shared glory of the resurrected life in which we are made new and whole. Amen!

Special Music "You Say" L. Daigle
Ed Vickery

Children's Message Laura Hankins

Song of Preparation "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 (*sung*) 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!

New Testament Reading Acts 2:41-47 Terry Raley-Dennis

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

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

Hymn

“The Play of the Godhead”

PERICHORESIS

*Leaders: The play of the Godhead, the Trinity's dance,
Embraces the earth in a sacred romance:
With God the Creator and Christ the true Son,
Entwined with the Spirit, a web daily spun
In spangles of mystery, the great Three-in-One.*

The warm mists of summer, cool waters that flow,
Turn crystal as ice when the wintry winds blow.
The taproot that nurtures, the shoot growing free,
The lifegiving fruit, full and ripe on the tree:
More mystic and wondrous, the great One-in-Three.

In God's gracious image of coequal parts,
We gather as dancers, uniting our hearts.
Men, women, and children, and all living things,
We join in the round of bright nature that rings
With rapture and rhythm: creation now sings!

* Gospel Lesson

John 16:12-15

Cheri Dennis

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

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

“Now Is the Time to Dance”

Cheri Dennis

Offering Dedication (*unison*)

Terry Raley-Dennis

Giver, Steward, and Guide, may these gifts we bring magnify beyond the boundaries of our community to create new possibilities in the world. Generous, Abundant, and Precious God, bless our offerings of presence, ability, and resources as we participate as your co-creators. 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!

RECEPTION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: As you join with this congregation, we invite you to affirm your commitments of faith. Do you trust that you are God's beloved child?

Candidates: I celebrate that I am God's beloved child.

Pastor: Do you choose to follow Jesus' way of justice and mercy, truth, and abundant life?

Candidates: I will follow Jesus as our way, our truth and our life.

Pastor: Do you accept that the Spirit of God blesses, strengthens, comforts and guides you?

Candidates: I welcome the Spirit of God breathing in and through me, blessing, strengthening, comforting and guiding me.

Pastor: Do you promise to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: As a follower of the Living Christ, do you promise to confront evil in all its varying guises and, in so doing, strive to fashion a world which reflects God's call for justice and peace?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: By your affirmation of prior baptism, you are made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in the pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Will you, to the best of your ability, share fully in the life and work of this congregation, acknowledging the truth that together we can be far more effective a witness for Christ than we can alone?

Candidates: I will.

Pastor: Will you give of your time, talents, and treasure in such a manner that the larger ministry of this church will be enhanced?

Candidates: I will.

Pastor: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

*** Congregation:**

We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life's joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God's sustaining presence as we journey forward together.

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

Dominic Ciciollo, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins,
Henry Hankins, Deborah Winston, Laurence Winston

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

Rev. Beth Lyon, and friends and family of Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll)

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), 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)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Consistory continues to closely monitor COVID trends. Out of an abundance of caution, masks will continue to be required during Sunday worship services and all indoor church activities until further notice. 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, 704-516-0322 or lisa@holycovenantucc.org.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members Bill & Jan Seaman, Steve Cimelli and Mary Claiborne. Thanks to Jim & Faye Humphrey, JoAnn Jellison and Laura Hankins, for introducing and guiding our new members.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

The Racial Justice and Equity (RJE) Committee would like to thank: All who attended the Black Fatigue II event on June 5 after the church service; The hospitality

committee for providing a wonderful array of snacks for all to enjoy before the event; Brian Hankins for running the technology; and Phil Kaveler for his wonderful leadership and organization leading up to the event, especially during the very busy month of his move.

During this session, we reviewed the definition of black fatigue: the accumulated, everyday lived experience of racism. Then in small groups we addressed 8 scenarios to help us analyze why the African American(s) in these scenarios might experience black fatigue and various possible responses that could help alleviate, address or mitigate the fatigue. Over the next few weeks, in the electronic newsletter, we will share with you the scenarios and the responses. Please be sure to check out the articles over the next few eblasts. Contact the office if you wish to be added to our electronic communication.

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! Join us, won't you? Let Suzanne Lamorey know if you will participate, suzlam@yahoo.com.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COALITION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

On August 5-7, 2022, the UCC's National ONA Gathering will meet virtually and celebrate the Coalition's 50th Anniversary to honor the queer leaders who founded its movement and transformed the United Church of Christ. How wonderful that our denomination has been an active champion for 50 years! Everyone is welcomed to register and attend the National Gathering. Rev. Andy Lang, longtime champion, advocate, leader and executive director, who has visited HC just a few years ago, will be retiring at the end of this year. In his honor, we'd like to make an offering to the Coalition, to keep forward momentum for the ecumenical LGBTQ+ church movement. Gifts can be made on our website during the month of June, <https://holycovenantucc.org/give-2/>. Visit <https://openandaffirming.org/> for resources, webinars, news, and more!

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

Sojourners is on break for a few weeks. Look for a new class beginning July 10th reading Amy-Jill Levine's book *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*.