



Meditation

Won't it be wonderful when
black history and native American history and Jewish history
and all of U.S. history is taught from one book.

Just U.S. history.

~ Maya Angelou

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
JUNETEENTH ~ SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

June 19, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "There Is a Balm in Gilead" arr. C.B. Putnam

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**

Ed Vickery

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams of water, our souls reach out to seek our God.

Many: Where is our God? In the cleansing of the rain, in the refreshing of a pool, in the predictability of a faucet.

One: With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, our voices lift toward our God.

Many: Where is our God? In the melody of voices raised in concert, in the stillness of silence, in the cacophony of spontaneous praise.

One: As deep calls to deep, we come to worship the Living God.

Many: Where is our God? In the echoes of our prayers, in the reverence of bowed heads, in the hope of raised faces. The Holy One is with us.

*** Invocation (*unison*)**

Ed Vickery

Holy Wisdom, we hear you calling us to gather and to hope in your name. Ignite sacred courage in us to proclaim the good news of justice from the comfort of the sanctuary to the public witness of the city gates. Inspire a compelling vision of a gracious, beloved, and empowered community that propels us to confront inequities, challenge privilege, and participate in your creative work in our time. Renew our hope for humanity so that we might rejoice in this inhabited world and delight in our siblings. Amen.

*** Hymn 553**

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

BALM IN GILEAD

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (*R*)

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. (*R*)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy and Gracious God, fear seeks to be our constant companion. It stifles us with its overwhelming presence and prolific imagination. Fear surrounds us and blocks our vision and your path. Fear keeps us from picking up our cross as much as it suppresses our joy in you. Fear invites us to believe the easy lie rather than confronting the hard truths necessary for your kingdom to come. Too often, we cast off your perfect love in favor of insidious fear. Forgive us for choosing fear when we could have you, your presence, and your way as our companion on our journey. Empower us to reject fear and all that fall complicit in dampening your truth.

Words of Assurance

Glencie Rhedrick

Romans 5:1b-2a reminds us that “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.” That grace promises the glory of transformation through the acknowledgement of need for it. New life awaits as “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (v.5) Receive grace, embrace transformation, and enter the newness of life in which Christ fashions our struggles into character and hope.

Song of Response

“I Love the Lord”

R. Smallwood

I love the Lord, who heard my cry, and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I’ll hasten to God’s throne.

I love the Lord, who heard my cry, and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

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

Glencie Rhedrick

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.

New Testament Reading

Psalm 42

Ed Vickery

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

My tears have been my food
day and night,

while people say to me continually,
‘Where is your God?’

These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.

By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God, my rock,
‘Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?’

As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
‘Where is your God?’

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church;
Many: Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 8:26-30

Glencie Rhedrick

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time, he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me’— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Legion’; for many demons had entered him.

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

“Making Moves to Make a Difference”

Glencie Rhedrick

Offering Dedication & Thanksgiving

Ed Vickery

One: The gifts of God come generously and abundantly. We hold, nurture, and amplify them as they are entrusted to our care. We respond faithfully by sharing them for the good of community and creation. In this act of faith and trust, we transform our resources of time, talent, and finances into the good news in the world.

Many: We give you thanks, God Our Help, for the abundance of the gifts you have planted in us as seeds that we may share in bloom. May these offerings be received and magnified for your glory.

* Doxology

“Confitemini Domino”

TAIZÉ

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

Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus.

Confitemini Domino alleluia!

* Hymn

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”

arr. R. Smallwood

Refrain: We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord,
Trusting in God’s holy Word—God’s never failed us yet.
Oh, can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith.

Don’t be discouraged with trouble in your life;

God will bear your burdens and remove all misery and strife. (R)

* Benediction

Glencie Rhedrick

* 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

"St. Catherine"

arr. J. Vogt

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

Dominic Ciciollo, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins,
Henry Hankins, Cheryl Milam, Dawn Schmitz, Kathi Smith,

Ushers, Greeters, Liturgist and Communion Servers

Please sign up on the SignUpGenius link:

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

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.

WE WELCOME BACK THE REVEREND GLENCIE RHEDRICK, TO THE PULPIT. She is an ordained Baptist minister, currently serving as an associate minister at First Baptist Church-West. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, Glencie received her M.Div from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and is currently a PhD student attending California Integral Institute of Studies. Glencie currently serves as Chaplain for several organizations, is a local and national community activist and organizer, and was the former president of Mecklenburg Ministries. She is also an active member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. Currently she holds the lead positions with numerous activist and outreach organizations. She is the convenor of a Facebook live show, 'SpeakingintheKeyofWE.' a conversation concerning Black Male Privilege and Patriarchy in the Church, raising the awareness of the biases women of African Ascent encounter in the Church and other segments of society. We are grateful for her time with us today!

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 The labyrinth group will take a break for the next few weeks due to the excessive heat and poor air quality conditions. They are considering indoor activities as an alternative, which may feature hybrid attendance (in person as well as Zoom) options. More info will be shared when available.

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*.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Robert Calais, family & friends of Martha Rottler Calais

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 Sarah Vincent (Ed Vickery)

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

Friends and family of Renee Estep (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), Geraldine Mobley (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Joe Parks (Beth Christian Sharp), Janey Pernice (Dawn Simmons), Jerry Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Kathy Sheppard (Vickie) Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Joyce Ward (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)

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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