



Meditation

“Destruction is essential to construction.

If we want to build the new,
we must be willing to let the old burn. [...]

The building of the true and beautiful
means the destruction of the good enough.”

— Glennon Doyle

“Truth is never a straight line;
it is a circle that will take you back to what you know, in order to
challenge your belief in what is fair, what is real, what is forgivable,
what is not and what type of person will you become
today now that you know.”

— Shannon L. Alder

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 10, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "We Are an Offering" D. Liles

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

One: May the peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit 309 "We Are Your People" WHITFIELD

We are your people, Spirit of grace.

You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors
of every nation and race.

Glad of tradition, help us to see
In all life's changing - Where you are leading,
Where our best efforts should be.

Spirit, unite us, make us by grace
Willing and ready, Christ's living body,
Loving the whole human race.

* Call to Worship Martha Bomely

One: God of salvation, we lift our souls to you.

Many: The paths of the Holy One are steadfast love and faithfulness.

One: In trust, we wait on you to speak, to reveal, to send.

Many: The paths of the Holy One are steadfast love and faithfulness.

One: Lead us in your truth with mercy and righteousness.

Many: The paths of the Holy One are steadfast love and faithfulness.

* Invocation (*unison*)

Divine Builder, you set our standards and foundation. Make your presence known to us as we gather before you. Let this community reflect your body and your vision. Fortify us with all truth and strengthen us with your abundant love. Enliven our senses and stir our being as we worship you as the people you have crafted to build alongside you. Amen.

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

* Hymn

“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
Through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling - can you hear? God is calling - can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
Through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling - can you hear? God is calling - can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling - and we hear! God is calling - and we hear!

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*unison*)

Everlasting God, you build up and tear down. We confess that we have erected idols that need to be demolished in our time. We embrace complacency and comfort over following your vision of beloved community and liberation. We measure ourselves not against your precepts but by the standards of this world. We close our ears to voices we do not want to hear and our eyes to sights too painful to see. Tear down the fear of discomfort within us and rebuild us with the pillars of holy love, compassionate care, and Spirit-led action. In your mercy, make us new. Amen.

Words of Grace

The Righteous One remains near to you and delights in prospering the fruit of your bodies, your soul, and your acts. The way of God is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away.

Children's Message

Laura Hankins

Hymn 552

“From the Crush of Wealth and Power”

BRIDEGROOM

From the crush of wealth and power, something broken in us all
Waits the Spirit's silent hour pleading with a poignant call,
Bind all my wounds again.

Even now our hearts are wary of the friend we need so much.
When I see the pain you carry, shall I, with a gentle touch,
Bind all your wounds again?

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.

Hymn 552

“From the Crush of Wealth and Power”

BRIDEGROOM

When our love for one another makes our burdens light to bear,
Find the sister and the brother, hungry for the feast we share;
Bind all their wounds again.

Every time our spirits languish, terrified to draw too near,
May we know each other's anguish and, with love that casts out fear,
Bind all our wounds again.

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
That as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,
We may hear with you what you say to us today. Amen.

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 10:25-37

Martha Bomely

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

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

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

Hymn 498

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

CHEREPONI

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,

Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,
Jesu, you act-ed as servant to them. (R)

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. (R)

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
All these are neighbors to us and you. (R)

Loving puts us on our knees, showing our faith by our deeds,
Serving the neighbors we have from you. (R)

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you. (R)

* Hebrew Scripture

Amos 7:7-17

Cheri Dennis

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A plumb-line.’ Then the Lord said, ‘See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.’

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, ‘Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.”’ And Amaziah said to Amos, ‘O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.’ Then Amos answered Amaziah, ‘I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, “Go, prophesy to my people Israel.”’

‘Now therefore hear the word of the Lord. You say, “Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.” Therefore, thus says the Lord: “Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parceled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.”’

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

“Love God, Love Neighbor”

Cheri Dennis

Invitation to Generosity

Martha Bomely

The plumb line is a device used to ensure alignment in construction. Generosity aligns the use of resources in excess. We bring our gifts out of the abundance we have received to benefit our neighbor and bless the world.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Architect of our faith, use our humble offerings to construct your plan of peace, hope, and love for life abundantly. Amen.

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Hymn 436

“God of Grace & God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior’s ways,
From the fears that long have bound us- free our heart for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure your children’s warring madness; bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Make our broken spirits whole, make our broken spirits whole.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces, in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
In the quest for liberty, in the quest for liberty.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* Benediction Response

"Send Us Out"

J. M. Talbot

Send us out to proclaim the reign of your kin-dom,
Send us out to proclaim and to heal,
Send us out with your power and your authority
To overcome and to heal the world.

Postlude

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

arr. M. Sedio

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

Kristin Andes, Martha Bomely, Steve Cimelli,
Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins

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, lisa@holycovenantucc.org, or 704-516-0322.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY - A UCC SPECIAL OFFERING

“Good news...Great joy...All the people!” (Luke 2:10)

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship. Holy Covenant, along with others in the United Church of Christ, we bring good news and great joy to those who have who have given so much to the life of our church! This UCC offering, typically taken in December, is now available on our website listed under Designated Gifts. <https://holycovenantucc.org/give-2/> Checks are also graciously accepted. Notate in your memo line Christmas Fund. Thank you for your continued generosity!

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 AND THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY ARE ON HIATUS

SOJOURNERS CLASS

Sojourners class begins a new book: *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine. This book is available on Amazon, Kindle, and Audible and other places too, but you do not have to have read the book to join us. For more information, contact Pastor Cheri: cherid@holycovenantucc.org or 704-519-6016. All are welcome either in person or via Zoom. See the link in the e-newsletter.

USHERS, GREETERS, LITURGIST AND COMMUNION SERVERS

Please sign up on the SignUpGenius link:

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

Ushers and Greeters, please contact Martha Bomely with questions, martha.bomely@gmail.com. Communion Servers, please contact Laura Hankins with questions, laura@hankins-clt.us.

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, Bill & Jan Seaman, Anita Taylor, Kathleen Wagner

Friends & Family Members

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 Griffeth), 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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