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### **Silent Meditation**

“For there is merely bad luck in not being loved; there is misfortune in not loving. All of us, today, are dying of this misfortune. For violence and hatred dry up the heart itself; the long fight for justice exhausts the love that nevertheless gave birth to it. In the clamor in which we live, love is impossible and justice does not suffice. This is why Europe hates daylight and is only able to set injustice up against injustice. But in order to keep justice from shriveling up like a beautiful orange fruit containing nothing but a bitter, dry pulp, I discovered once more at Tipasa that one must keep intact in oneself a freshness, a cool wellspring of joy, love the day that escapes injustice, and return to combat having won that light. Here I recaptured the former beauty, a young sky, and I measured my luck, realizing at last that in the worst years of our madness the memory of that sky had never left me. This was what in the end had kept me from despairing. I had always known that the ruins of Tipasa were younger than our new constructions or our bomb damage. There the world began over again every day in an ever new light. O light! This is the cry of all the characters of ancient drama brought face to face with their fate. This last resort was ours, too, and I knew it now. In the middle of winter I at last discovered that there was in me an invincible summer.”

— Albert Camus

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

July 17, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Report on Pastoral Search

Lisa Cloninger

One: May the peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit

“Woyaya” (*We Are Going*)

S. Amarifio

We are going, heaven knows where we are going,

We'll know we're there.

We will get there, heaven knows how we will get there,

We know we will.

It will be hard we know

And the road will be muddy and rough,

But we'll get there, heaven knows how we will get there,

We know we will.

We are going, heaven knows where we are going,

We'll know we're there.

\* Call to Worship

Alix Felsing

One: Let us gather in spirit and truth to worship the Holy One!

Many: We come as green olive trees, fragrant with life and vibrancy.

One: Let us praise the God who reveals, questions, and listens.

Many: We come as green olive trees, ripe with possibilities.

One: Let us give thanks for God's abiding and faithful love.

Many: We come as green olive trees, proclaiming the goodness of God and creation.

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

\* Invocation (*unison*)

Divine Gardener, we need your care and nurture. Fertilize our soil and our souls. Plant seeds of wisdom, inspiration, and discernment. Prune us today for more abundance tomorrow. Refresh us with living water. Revive us again. Amen.

\* Hymn 1

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Not wanting, not wasting but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above  
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving to both great and small;  
In all life you're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
Then wither and perish but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we now render as your angels do;  
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*unison*)

Creator, we seek the transformative power of your grace that chastens, convicts, and challenges us to change. Make us new in the pruning of bitterness and resentment, jealousy and comparison, apathy and indifference. Liberally water us in grace that we would bear fruit. Amen.

Words of Grace

Cheri Dennis

Pruning makes way for flourishing. Transformation and new life wait for us on the other side of the process of growth. Through it all, God is with us.

Children's Message

Laura Hankins

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 (*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 10:38-42

Alix Felsing

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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

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

Hymn

"Our Hope, Our Life"  
(Paraphrase of Psalm 49)

O WALY WALY

Our hope, our life, are in the Lord, the God we honor and confess.

Why crave renown or opulence?

They fade, those things we now possess.

Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power,

But what they cherish will decay;

And still the ransom for a soul remains a price too great to pay.

Though wealth or learning may be ours,

Or fame that spreads throughout the land,

The shackles of mortality prevent so much that we have planned.

Beyond this age of shame and sham

We glimpse a better destiny:

The Lord will lift us free from death to dwell in praise eternally.

\* Hebrew Scripture

Amos 8:1-12

Cheri Dennis

This is what the Lord God showed me—a basket of summer fruit. He said, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A basket of summer fruit.’ Then the Lord said to me, ‘The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by. The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day,’ says the Lord God; ‘the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!’

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, ‘When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.’

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely, I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

On that day, says the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

**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

“Summer Fruit”

Cheri Dennis

Invitation to Generosity

Alix Felsing

Colossians 1:18 reminds us that Jesus is the head of the church and first in all things. May we place Christ first as we share the gifts we have been given.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (*unison*)

**Alpha and Omega, may the gifts we share be used to meet the needs before us, the community around us, and the call within us. 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 "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound" McKee  
The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door and step into the street.  
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.  
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,  
Then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

- \* 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

*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:**  
Steve Cimelli, Keith Dennis, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins  
Shakti Subramanian, Deborah Winston, Laurence Winston

## 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](mailto: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!

### HC ENDOWMENT HELPS PREVENT CERTAIN HOMELESSNESS

“We didn’t have the money to help everyone – I’ve been praying for a miracle,” said Erin Barbee, SVP of Fund Development at DreamKey Partners (formerly Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership). Please refer to the weekly electronic newsletter to read the story behind this grant from the Pilgrim Legacy Fund, and the thank you note from DreamKey Partners.

### CELEBRATE PRIDE WITH HOLY COVENANT UCC!

Share your ONA Pride of Holy Covenant UCC at this year's Charlotte Pride Event. Volunteers are needed for our church booth on Saturday and Sunday August 20-21 beginning at 12 noon. Masks will be required. Signup sheets are in the Gathering Room or you can sign up through Sign Up Genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-charlotte1>. Please contact Debbie Davis with questions at [Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com](mailto:Debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com) and thank you for your support of this important outreach ministry.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:martha.bomely@gmail.com). Communion Servers, please contact Laura Hankins with questions, [laura@hankins-clt.us](mailto:laura@hankins-clt.us).

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **Members**

Cindy Coble, 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**

Family and Friends of Marquis Glenn (Dawn Simmons)

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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