



Communion Table by Jan Richardson

Meditation

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”
— C.S. Lewis

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
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

October 2, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "There Is a Fountain" arr. D. Wyrzten

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Gregg Walker
One: May the peace of God be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**

Introit "Come Build a Church" K. Medema
**Come build a church with soul and spirit.
Come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward;
No house of wood or glass or stone.
Come build a church with human frailty.
Come build a church of flesh and blood.
Jesus shall be its sure foundation.
It shall be built by the hand of God.**

*** Call to Worship** Gregg Walker
One: Increase our faith!
Many: **Let our worship uncover clearer understandings of you.**
One: Increase our trust!
Many: **Let our worship unearth stronger connections to you.**
One: Increase our hope!
Many: **Let our worship unleash fresher possibilities from you.**

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

* Invocation (*unison*)

Gregg Walker

One: Let us pray.

Many: Meet us here with all our questions and insecurities. Challenge our knowledge and certainties. Transform our beliefs and perceptions. Influence our commitments and actions. Amen.

* Song

“Malo! Malo! Thanks Be to God”

J. Manibusan

(This is a call and response song giving thanks in many languages. Cantors will sing first, then respond with bold phonetic spelling.)

Refrain:

Tongan: Malo! Malo! Thanks be to God!

Mah-loh! Mah-loh! Thanks be to God!

Portuguese: Obrigado! Alleluia!

O-bree-ga-doh! Alleluia!

Spanish/Korean: Gracias! Kam sa ham ni da!

Grah-seeahs! Kahm sah hahm nee dah!

Tongan: Malo! Malo! Thanks be to God!

Mah-loh! Mah-loh! Thanks be to God!

Verse 1:

Chamoru: Si Yu’us
maa’sel

**See joos
mah-ah-sih!**

Indonesian: Terima
kasih!

**Three-mah
kah-seeh!**

Tagalog: Maraming
salamat!

**Mah-rah-meeng
sah-lah-maht!**

German: Danke schön!

Dahn-kuh shuh(r)n!

Polish: Dzię kuje!

Jehn-koo-yeh!

We thank you, Lord!

We thank you, Lord! (R)

Verse 2:

Creole: Mési
bokou!

**Meh-see
boh-koo!**

Mandarin: Xie xie!

Shee-eh shee-eh!

Japanese: Arigatō!

Ah-ree-gah-toh!

Italian: Grazie!

Grah-tsee-eh!

Vietnamese: Cám ỏn!

Gahm urn!

We thank you, Lord!

We thank you, Lord! (R)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gregg Walker

We don't always get what you mean, Storytelling Jesus. We want to be better followers, so we exclaim, "Increase our faith!" Your response exposes our flawed approach, well-intentioned though it may be. Forgive us for transacting our faith for your favor. Amen.

Song

"Take, O Take Me as I Am" TAKE ME AS I AM (Iona)

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Words of Assurance

Gregg Walker

God's abundance is illogical and immeasurable. Though we may not understand it, we are yet worthy of basking in the undeserved goodness of God. Praise be!

Song

"Know That God Is Good"
(Democratic Republic of Congo)

MUNGU NI MWEMA

Know that God is good. (3x) God is good; God is good.
Halle, hallelujah. (3x) Hallelujah, Hallelujah.
Mungu ni mwema. (3x) Ni mwema, ni mwema.
Know that God is good. (3x) God is good; God is good.

Children's Message

Laura Hankins

Pastoral Prayer

Glencie Rhedrick

Anthem

"Instruments of Your Peace" K. Dearman (S. Africa)
Lisa Cloninger, vocalist

The Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

Glencie Rhedrick

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*)

CHEREPONI (Ghana)

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

Hebrew Scripture

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2: 1-4

Glencie Rhedrick

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watch-post,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.
Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

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

Glencie Rhedrick

Invitation to Generosity

Gregg Walker

If tiny mustard seeds can produce unruly and enormous plants that contagiously spread and impact their landscapes, so too can our cents, seconds, and cells, which we are now invited to graciously share.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Gregg Walker

We thank you for these gifts of money, time, and selves that we cheerfully give to you, Multiplying God. Expand and bless every single one in service to you and the work you've called us to do. Amen.

* Doxology

BARUCH HASHEM ADONAI (Israel)

Baruch hashem Adonai. Baruch hashem Adonai.

Blessed be the name of the Lord. Baruch hashem Adonai.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table (*unison*)Glencie Rhedrick

Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers from above and below the equator, from the North and from Down Under, from every time zone around the globe. As today's sunlight inches across land and sea, Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family. All are invited and all are welcome to share in Christ's love.

Words of Institution

Glencie Rhedrick

Distribution of Elements

Music during Communion

EAT THIS BREAD (TAIZÉ)

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me a never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Glencie Rhedrick

On this Sunday of World Communion, we give thanks, Living God, for all the members of your universal church; may we be bound together by the spiritual ties of this celebration. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another until all of us come to the unity of faith through the Living Christ. Amen.

* Hymn 347 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” LINSTEAD (Jamaica)
Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound! (*Repeat*)

Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. (*R*)

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! (*R*)

* Benediction Glencie Rhedrick

* Benediction Response HALLE, HALLE (Caribbean)
Halle, halle, hallelujah! (3x) Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Postlude “We Come to the Hungry Feast” arr. M. Sedio

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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 PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:
Kristin Andes, Martha Bomely, Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins,
JoAnn Jellison, Phyllis Johnson, Dawn Schmitz, Shakti Subramanian

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES UPDATE 09 23 2022

Mecklenburg County is in the "green", meaning we have once again reached the low community level for COVID-19. Hooray! Consistory voted to move to a "masks optional" designation for in-person activities at the church effective immediately and ask that member decision to mask or not mask be respected. We will continue to monitor COVID trends as we move into the cooler months and will adjust as needed.

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. If the "mask optional" designation prevents you from attending worship in person, please let us know so we are aware of the impact of this decision on individual church members. 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.

WELCOME BACK REV. GLENCIE RHEDRICK

Glencie 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 Institute of Integral 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.

FEEDBACK FROM LISTENING SESSIONS: MEETING AFTER WORSHIP TODAY, OCTOBER 2

Please join us immediately following worship for Beth Kennett, our Center for Congregational Health Consultant, to share overall feedback from recent listening sessions as part our pastor search process. This meeting will be an hour or less and there will be time for questions.

Need to join the meeting by Zoom.us?

Meeting ID: 871 8089 6395 Passcode: 497418

[Please use this link for access](#)

PASTOR SEARCH UPDATES

We have a new Pastor Search Team! Many thanks to the nine Holy Covenant Members who have agreed to serve and have been approved by Consistory to perform this important next phase of our search.

Two original Pastor Search Team members will serve on the new team: Kathleen Smith and Justine Hughes. We appreciate their ongoing service. New Pastor Search Team members include Debbie Winston, Gregg Walker, Alix Felsing, Martha Bomely, Mike Yonkovig, Eric Miner, and D Evans. This new group will be meeting with our consultant, Beth Kennett in the coming days and they already have profiles to review from interested pastors. Please pray for this group as they start their work together on behalf of our congregation.

HAPPENINGS IN OCTOBER

Please check the weekly e-newsletter for details on each

OCT 9 Sojourners start a 7-week series: the Bible and how it came to be

OCT 15 9AM Help clear the trails

OCT 16 12-4P Vaccine Clinic

OCT 16 Celebrate Autumn BBQ Picnic after worship

OCT 30 CROP HUNGER WALK after worship

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to prayers@holycovenantucc.org.

Members

Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Hong, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Irene Mikkelson, Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Bill & Jan Seaman, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Friends & family of Aida Marcial who live in Puerto Rico

Laura Christian (Beth Sharp), Alicia Gibson (Jim Hong), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Marta Kosinska & Jon Spencer (Lloyd & Gussie Spencer), Geraldine Mobley (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Joe Parks (Beth Christian Sharp), Jerry & Marie Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller), Paul Zinkann (Pam Zinkann), Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-Knight)