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Silent Meditation

Vindication: the action of clearing someone of blame or suspicion; proof that someone or something is right, reasonable, or justified.

Justification: the action of showing something to be right or reasonable; good reason for something that exists or has been done; the action of declaring or making righteous in the sight of God.

Redemption: the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil; a thing that saves someone from error or evil.

Mediation: intervention in a dispute in order to resolve it; arbitration; intervention in a process or relationship; intercession.

(definitions from Oxford English Dictionary on Google)

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
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 6, 2022 10:55 am

Prelude "Church United" A. V. Fedak

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Cheri Dennis
Pastoral Search Team Update Eric Miner
Stewardship Update Debbie Davis

One: May the peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit "As We Gather" M. Fay/T. Coomes

As we gather, may your Spirit work within us.

As we gather, may we glorify your name.

Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,

We'll be blessed because we came, O Lord;

We'll be blessed because we came.

* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 145:1-5) Kevin Decker

One: Come, let us praise God together!

Many: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

One: Let us tell stories of God's power and majesty, God's mighty acts throughout history.

Many: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

One: Let us remember the compassion God has shown toward us. God's mercy and unfailing love, generation after generation.

Many: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

All: Let us worship God together.

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

* Hymn 28

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, (R)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, (R)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, or strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Make us aware of those times we don't even recognize our wrongdoing. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Cheri Dennis

This gracious God, who is great in mercy, promises forgiveness of sin to all who truly repent and are sincere in faith. Our God pardons and delivers us from all sin, confirms and strengthens us in all goodness, and brings us to everlasting life. Amen.

Stories for All People

Laura Hankins

Song

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

The Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

Cheri Dennis

Loving God, through the Spirit's revelation, may Your true nature be honored everywhere. May Your reign of love come. May the 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 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" MORECAMBE

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
And make me love you as I ought to love.

Reading from Psalms

Psalm 17:1-9

Kevin Decker

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.

Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.

Guard me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings,
from the wicked who despoil me,
my deadly enemies who surround me.

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

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

Hebrew Scripture

Job 19:23-27a

Cheri Dennis

'O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead

they were engraved on a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,

and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

and after my skin has been thus destroyed,

then in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see on my side,

and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me!

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

“For I Know That My (gō-’ă-lî) Lives”

Cheri Dennis

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Invitation to Generosity

Kevin Decker

God always invites us to offer financial resources, time, abilities, and compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future of this community of faith and for many others near and far away. Holy Covenant has been blessed by the generosity of members and friends to be able to sustain God’s work in this place and in our community. Join with me now as we dedicate the offerings we’ve received to God’s kingdom work.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Kevin Decker

We take courage, O God, for your Spirit abides with us. We rejoice in bringing our treasure to meet the needs of the community inside this familiar place, and the community of those who live around us. We dedicate our gifts to the work of building your kingdom and sharing your love. Amen.

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below.

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;

One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Anthem of Invitation

“Christ, We See You”

K. Medema

Preparation

Cheri Dennis

One: The Holy One be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

Many: **We open our hearts to you, O God.**

One: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

Join with me now in the UCC Statement of Faith

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.**

You call us into your church

**to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

You promise to all who trust you

**forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Words of Institution

Cheri Dennis

As Jesus was at the table with his friends, he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and make this bread and this cup sustenance for our journey. By your grace, may we experience anew the call you place on our lives to serve one another. In feasting at your table, may our hearts be filled with courage once again to follow the Risen Christ, come what may.

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Cheri Dennis

God, your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey with Christ towards justice. Amen.

* Hymn 77 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" SICILIAN MARINERS

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace:
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,
Fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey:
May we ever, may we ever live with you in endless day.

* Benediction

Cheri Dennis

* Benediction Response

SHALOM, CHAVERIM

Shalom, chaverim! Shalom, chaverot! Shalom, shalom!
Lehitraot, lehitraot, shalom, shalom.

Translation:

(Farewell, good friends! Till we meet again, peace and farewell)

*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 PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:

Jeff Edwards-Knight, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins, Laura Hankins, JoAnn Jellison, Phyllis Johnson, Dawn Robinson, Shakti Subramanian

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

Consistory voted to move to a "masks optional" designation for in-person activities at the church effective Sept. 23rd, and ask that a member's 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.

WHAT IS NON-BINARY? WHAT IS GENDER IDENTITY? WHAT ARE THE CORRECT PRONOUNS? Join Holy Covenant TODAY at 12:30 PM to explore these questions and others with [Dr. Benjamin Simmons](#), a family physician and board member of [PFLAG Charlotte](#). A light lunch will be available. PFLAG's mission is to support families, allies and people who are LGBTQ+, to educate ourselves and others about issues important to LGBTQ+ communities, and to advocate in our communities for a more equitable future for all. Our call at Holy Covenant includes continuing to educate ourselves around many issues, including the changing nature of LGBTQIA+ identity and language.

SAYING THANKS TO LAURA ALLISON

Congratulations to Laura Allison on her new job at the Discovery Place, and many thanks for her years of faithful service to Holy Covenant. We will miss her. The kids love her. She loves them. A love offering is being collected by Lisa Cloninger. Cash, check, or Venmo: @Elizabeth-Cloninger.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT

The Christian Education Team will be filling in while we look for a new Children's Church Teacher. Would any of you like to go on the list to teach or be a helper? Call or email or speak to Jo Ann Jellison, if you would like to talk about it. joannjellison@yahoo.com; (804)937-1180 Thank you!

UPDATES FROM YOUR PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM

See our weekly electronic newsletter for a chronological document of our weekly accomplishments. Keep us in prayer as we continue this most important work!

STEWARDSHIP 2023

Many thanks to all who pledged to our 2023 campaign! Because of your excellent response, we have met our General Fund Goal at 100%, and are approaching our Building Fund Goal, currently at 85%. You make a difference in the health of this church and its many ministries!

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2022

It is soon time for our 2022 Annual Meeting, our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with the entire congregation. To conduct the business of the church we need a quorum - and that means we need our members "present". (This year the meeting will be held in-person and virtually)! Absentee Ballots are available - please contact the church office.

SOJOURNERS CLASS SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

Everyone is welcome to join us both in-person or via Zoom at 9:45 Sunday mornings. Go to www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762 and Passcode: 523903. For more information, contact Cheri Dennis (704-519-6016, cherid@holycovenantucc.org).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Andrew & Brittany Bomely, Martha Bomely, Gary & Linda Clark, Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Hong, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Laura Christian (Beth Sharp), Alicia Gibson (Jim Hong), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Ann Johnson (Joy Johnson), 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), Christopher Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)