



Picture by Randy Tarampi (Unsplash)

“Follow your heart, never surrender your dreams.
Always believe in yourself and let God do the rest.”

– Anonymous

“Don’t chase your dreams.
Chase the God who has dreams for you.”

– Anonymous

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, MDiv, MBA, Senior Pastor
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HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WELCOME SUNDAY
INSTALLATION OF REV. CHRISTOPHER CZARNECKI

November 5, 2023, 10:55 am

** Your whole self is welcomed here. Please feel free to take care of your body during worship in ways that work for you.*

Prelude "Holy, Holy, Holy" arr. M. Hayes

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki
One: May the peace of Christ be with you!
Many: **And also with you.**

Stewardship Moment Martha Bomely, Jeff Hughes

Introit "Morning Song" arr. J. W. Krug
Handbell Choir

* Call to the Heart Alix Felsing, Consistory Vice-President
Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worshiping, reading, and singing...

One: We have come to worship today,

Many: **to receive healing and find peace for our souls.**

One: Here among God's gathered people,

Many: **there is such beauty and diversity.**

One: This is our refuge and sanctuary,

Many: **a place where all are welcome.**

One: As we pray, sing, and hope in our many ways,

Many: **we dream of the kin-dom here on earth. The liberating family of God working together for love and justice. Amen.**

* Hymn 277

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,
From the beginning, God eternally.

Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,
Though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Invocation (*unison*)

Alix Felsing

Come, great Spirit, come. Through the smoke and flames of war, come.
Through the crowds of unsettled humanity, come. From within the hope of
every nation, come. Out of the natural world, come. Come and come again,
until the wars are ended, the refugees sheltered, the nations at peace, and
the Earth secured. Come, great Spirit, come to redeem your creation. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBER DEDICATION

Rev. F. Jonathan Heaslet

At this time, I would like to invite Elizabeth Colton, Lee Brigman, Akeera & Christopher Czarnecki and their son, Daveyion Simmons to come forward.

AFFIRMATION OF ALL NEW MEMBERS

RESPONSE OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please take a comfortable posture and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

* Congregation:

We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life's joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God's sustaining presence as we journey forward together.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Sponsors: On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome.

Stories for All People

Linda Heaslet

All children in attendance are welcome to remain where they are or come up to the chancel for a story.

Choir Anthem

"It Is Well with My Soul"

arr. J. N. Beck

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 4:16-21 (CEB)

Terrence Hayes

Our Gospel lesson for today comes from Luke 4:16-21, where Jesus returns to Galilee and reads the scroll from Isaiah in the synagogue...

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard 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.**

Hebrew Lesson

Genesis 37:1-10 (ESV)

Alix Felsing

Our Hebrew lesson for today comes from Genesis 37:1-10, where Joseph shares his dreams and is given a multi-colored coat from his father...

Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojourning's, in the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So, they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"

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

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

INSTALLATION OF REV. CHRISTOPHER CZARNECKI

(In order of speaking)

Jeffery Edwards-Knight, Consistory President 2023,
Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. H. Warren Casiday, (D.Min.) Associate Conference Minister,
Western North Carolina Association, Southern Conference, UCC

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, MDiv, MBA, Senior Pastor
Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

EXHORTATION

COVENANT

...

Rev. Dr. H. Warren Casiday: *(Addressing the congregation)*

Members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, will you take a comfortable posture and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

Members and friends of Holy Covenant UCC:

We, the members and friends of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ receive Christopher Czarnecki as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in sharing the good news of the gospel and the ministry of Jesus Christ. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rev. Dr. H. Warren Casiday:

Members of the Western North Carolina Association, will you take a comfortable posture and affirm your covenant with Holy Covenant United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

Western North Carolina Association Members:

We, the members of the Western North Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rev. Dr. H. Warren Casiday:

Members of the ecumenical and interfaith community, will those who are able, rise and give witness to this covenant?

Ecumenical and Interfaith Community Members:

We, as partners in faith and justice, celebrate the covenant that is made here this day, and vow to work with you for the good of the whole community and our world.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

DECLARATION

Rev. Dr. H. Warren Casiday:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare Rev. Christopher Czarnecki duly installed as pastor and teacher of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ.

**Members and Friends of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ:
Thanks be to God.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Invitation to Generosity

Alix Felsing

Now is the time for our ministry of giving and sharing...

Joseph was a dreamer. He foresaw a future in which his dreams would become real possibilities. As we hold the communal life of our church in our hearts, and the many communities it is called to serve, may we also dream of what our various gifts can do. Let us now share of our resources, in all their forms, imagining God's inclusive, radical, and beloved community right here, right now.

Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Alix Felsing

Please join me in a unison prayer of dedication for all we will receive...

Wonderous God, who lives before us, we dedicate the many gifts given to the work Christ calls us to in the world. Work easily said, but not easily done. The work of serving human wholeness, caring for your creation, fighting for equity and justice, welcoming outsiders and outcasts, offering peace and compassion, and least but not last, loving one another. Amen.

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God, above, you heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: We celebrate this holy meal because Jesus' ministry happened around tables: tables where the unwelcome were invited in, where the powerful were taught and humbled, where the hungry were fed and the thirsty were given something to drink. In these meals God's saving presence was revealed and made real, and a new form of community was given birth.

All: **We come to this table to meet Jesus, made known in the breaking of the bread.**

One: God be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Becky Turner
Rev. Youvette Bland

...and we will be sent into your world as vessels of Christ to proclaim *shalom*.

All: **Holy, holy, God of love, the whole creation speaks of your glory.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: We remember on the night of betrayal and desertion Jesus gathered with his followers to share a meal. He took bread that was being to feed them, and after giving thanks to God for it, he broke it and said to those among him, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper Jesus took a cup of wine that was being used to quench their thirst, and after giving thanks to God for it, he said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink from it in remembrance of me." God, bless these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us as we receive them, so we remember your Spirit is upon us and has anointed us. As we share in this meal make us faithful in all the things to which you have called us.

All: **In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, God. We give thanks that you have called us to serve your world and your people.**

One: This is the bread of life and the cup of the new covenant. It is given for all who come. Be fed for all things are ready.

Music during Communion "At This Table" I. Menzel & J. Myrin
Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, vocalists

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

All: We thank you God because you have invited us to this table. Here we are strengthened for the task ahead of us: the loving of the world. Here we receive all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith. Help us to love one another and your creation more. Teach us to pray, share, teach, feed, heal, and welcome as you have done to us. Make our lives a form of praise for your love shown to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Hymn "Go to the World!" SINE NOMINE

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.

* Benediction Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

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

Postlude "Seek Ye First" arr. J. Purifoy

*Songs in this service are used by permission.
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The liturgy for today's service Steven Charleston, United Church of Christ Book of Worship, United Church of Christ Worship Ways.

WE PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:

D Evans, Brian Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison, Shakti Subramanian

We welcome all in our congregation to participate! Please sign up in the Gathering Room or on the SignUpGenius link:

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

Stay connected! Check out all the current happenings in the weekly newsletter via Constant Contact. Not seeing it in your inbox? Sign-up here: <https://holycovenantucc.org/newsletters/>

NEW MEMBERS/ HOSTS

Please join us in welcoming new members Lee Bigham, Elizabeth Colton, Christopher and Akeera Czarnecki and Daveyion Simmons. Many thanks to Eric & Ed Vickery, Jo Ann Jellison, and Jeff & Kevin Edwards-Knight, for guiding our new members.

WELCOME GUESTS ON THIS JOYOUS OCCATION

Today we welcome several visitors! We welcome the Rev. Dr. H. Warren Casiday (D.Min), Associate Conference Minister of the UCC Southern Conference's Western North Carolina Association. We welcome Rev. Rebecca Turner, Senior Pastor of Christ Church United Church of Christ in Maplewood Missouri. Rev. Turner was a mentor to Pastor Chris and is the pastor of their family's home church in Maplewood, Missouri.

We welcome Rev. Youvette Bland, who is a Chaplain at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri and is a kindred soul and seminary friend of Pastor Chris.

Save The Dates!
Nov 12 – Rev. Lloyd Spencer brings the message

Nov 19 - Annual Meeting & All Church Pot Luck

Join us in worship on November 19 at 10:55am in the sanctuary or via live stream where we will integrate reports of the many ministries of the church during the service. **Then join us at noon (on November 19th) in the sanctuary** or via Zoom for business reports and voting on 2024 Proposed Budget and Class of 2026 Consistory. Votes that are cast in person and via Zoom will be included in the tally.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-45284953-annual#/>

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Linda Carver, Gary & Linda Clark, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Humphrey, Carl & Phyllis Johnson, Sharon Landis, Melissa Noll, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry Rhyne, Ed & Beth Sharp, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Shakti Subramanian, Anita Taylor, Bill & Kim Tyler

Friends & Family Members

Ketisha Daley in the recent death of her husband, Roger Daley (Robert Shepherd) Karen & Billy (Kim Tyler), Melissa Brown, Erika Eckel and family (Dawn Simmons), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Darin Jellison and family (Jo Ann Jellison), Matty & Simone McKinnon (Joy Decker), Roxanne & Moose Meyer (Dana Endsley & Mike Yonkovig), Sue Parrish (Terry Raley-Dennis), Marie Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Susan Rayfield (Martha Bomely), Suzie & John Robinson (Dana Endsley & Mike Yonkovig), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Dave & Pam Shimberg, Christopher Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Eulene Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Janet Wakefield (Linda Burby), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to

prayers@holycovenantucc.org.