



Photo by Tim Wildsmith

“The diversity of human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord.”
– Abdu’l-Baha

“Families aren’t always born to each other. Sometimes, you’re scattered far and wide, separated by years and miles. But inevitably, you find your way into each other’s lives because in every way that matters, you are kindred. Here’s to chosen family”
– Nanes Hoffman

Founded in 1916, we are an Open & Affirming (LGBTQ+), anti-racist, and justice seeking church that is part of the greater United Church of Christ.

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ HAPPY PRIDE!**

June 9, 2024, 10:55 am

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

Prelude "In Christ There Is No East or West" arr. M. Hassell

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Introit "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" arr. M. A. Miller

There's a spirit of love in this place. (2x)

You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.

There's a spirit of love in this place.

There's the presence of peace in this room. (2x)

In God's tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds.

There's the presence of peace in this room.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, we bless your holy name.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, there's a spirit of love in this place.

* Call to the Heart Cheryl Milam

Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worship and reading...

One: We come from condos and apartments, houses and townhomes, mini-mansions and shelters...

Many: **We are the family of God.**

One: We are White, Black, Native, Latino, Pacific Islander, European, and Asian...

Many: **We are the family of God.**

One: We are bisexual, straight, queer, non-binary, trans, cisgendered, gay, and allies...

Many: **We are the family of God.**

One: We are people of faith and no faith, questioners and doubters, saints and sinners...

Many: We are the family of God.

One: We've come to worship as one family, diverse, blended, unique, distinct, and beautiful...

Many: We are the family of God. May our worship glorify this great loving family and kin-dom we all belong to!

* Hymn

“Gather Us In”

M. HAUGEN

Here in this place, the new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away:
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human-race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong:
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven light-years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is God present, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own,
Gather us in, all peoples together -
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Yourselves: “I surround myself with people who love and care for me as Christ would.”

Neighbor: “You surround yourself with people who love and care for you as Christ would.”

World: **“We surround ourselves with people who love and care for us as Christ would.”**

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (*unison*)

Cheryl Milam

Let us take a moment to consider our own need for transformation and forgiveness...

God, Jesus calls us into his ever-widening family, but sometimes in honesty, we don't see ourselves as part of that family. We listen to the words or judgments of others, see our faults or failures, and believe that he would never love or welcome someone like us. And at times we admit we can also do the same to others. Forgive us for not seeing our own worth or casting a limited view and move us to open our hearts and transform our ways. Amen.

Words of Grace

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

All throughout the Gospels we see Jesus befriending outsiders, ministering to the oppressed, and including the lowly and forsaken into his circle. Jesus was continuously working to widen what many saw as the limits or boundaries of God's family. May we remember, whoever we are, that we are siblings in Christ, united and bound together not by blood or kinship ties, but by the mystery and love of the divine. A gift shared with us, and that we are blessed to share with others. Amen.

Celebrating Our Graduates

Stories for All People “What the Road Said” by Cleo Wade

Margo Hankins

Song of Preparation

“Rain Down”

J. Cortes

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Alternative Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

by Sherri J. Weinberg

God, heart of the world: revealed through every aspect of creation, understood through our awareness. May we honor the holiness of creation and act accordingly so that your love is reflected in the way we live. May we always be thankful for the food we eat and the friends we have. May we forgive those who transgress against us and be forgiven for our own. In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat and not be compromised by hesitation. Through our freedom, may your justice be seen and heard and experienced forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

OPEN MY EYES

Open our ears, that we may hear voices of truth you send so clear
And while the wave notes fall on our ears, everything false will disappear
Silently now we wait for you, ready, our God, your will to do.
Open our hearts; illumine us, Spirit divine!

Modern Lesson

Patrick Washburn

Our modern lesson for today is from the late Rachel Held Evans, who was a progressive Christian bestselling author, columnist, and blogger about faith, culture, and social issues. Among her works she says...

“Jesus said [in God’s house there are many rooms.] In this metaphor I like to imagine the Presbyterians hanging out in the library, the Baptists running the kitchen, the Anglicans setting the table, the Anabaptists washing feet with the hose in the backyard, the Lutherans making liturgy with the laundry, the Methodists stocking the fire in the hearth, the Catholics keeping the family history, [and] the Pentecostals throwing open all the windows and doors to let more people in.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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

* Gospel Lesson

Mark 3:20-35 (CEB)

Cheryl Milam

Our Gospel lesson for today comes from Mark 3:20-35, where the legal experts accuse Jesus of being out of his mind and his family comes for him...

Jesus entered a house. A crowd gathered again so that it was impossible for him and his followers even to eat. When his family heard what was happening, they came to take control of him. They were saying, “He’s out of his mind!”

The legal experts came down from Jerusalem. Over and over they charged, “He’s possessed by Beelzebul. He throws out demons with the authority of the ruler of demons.”

When Jesus called them together he spoke to them in a parable: “How can Satan throw Satan out? A kingdom involved in civil war will collapse. And a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. If Satan rebels against himself and is divided, then he can’t endure. He’s done for. No one gets into the house of a strong person and steals anything without first tying up the strong person. Only then can the house be burglarized. I assure you that human beings will be forgiven for everything, for all sins and insults of every kind. But whoever insults the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. That person is guilty of a sin with consequences that last forever.” He said this because the legal experts were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.”

His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, "Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you."

He replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, "Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God's will is my brother, sister, and mother."

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.**

The Good News "Who Is Your Family?" Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Invitation to Generosity Cheryl Milam
Now is the time for our ministry of giving and sharing...

We believe in a God who provides abundantly for our needs. A God who has fashioned us each with unique gifts that together make the body of Christ whole. For the ministries we are called to, and the inclusive kin-dom we are to behold, in gratitude and generosity, let us now share a portion of God's goodness we have been given.

* Doxology "Confitemini Domino" TAIZÉ
(translation: Give thanks to the Lord for God is good, Psalm 118:1)
Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus.
Confitemini Domino alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*) Cheryl Milam
Please join me in our unison prayer of dedication...
Giving God, we have carved out a piece of our prosperity and shared it with you. Use it to help us meet our expenses, to generate creative ideas, inspire others with hope, do justice where it is needed, and bind us to our neighbors in love. Help us be stewards of these gifts, so that the full breath of your family grows until it is seen as one. Amen.

* Hymn 394 "In Christ There Is No East or West" MCKEE
In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

* 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

“Gather Us In”

M. Haugen

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The liturgy for today's service was written by Rev. Christopher Czarnecki.

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:

D Evans, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian

Greeters:

Refreshments: Bold & Beautiful Covenant Group

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Greeters and ushers are needed starting at 10:30am every Sunday. Liturgists and readers roles are also available. **Please sign up in the Gathering Room or at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-ushers>.**

We welcome all in our congregation to participate in worship leadership.

Download the app to make signing up even easier!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/mobileapp>

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Cynthia Simpson, Scott Simpson and family in the death of Cynthia's husband, Rev. Tommy Simpson

Linda Carver, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Humphrey, Jeff Hughes, Kat Kerce, Sharon Landis, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Alice Phelan & Sally Young, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry Rhyne, Ed & Beth Sharp, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Lianna (Kathleen Wagner), Melissa Brown, Phillip Cherry (Anne Pigg), Craig Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Charles Jernigan (Lee Brigman), Dave Johnson, Judah L. Jones & Bill Englebreth, Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Joe Parks (Beth Sharp), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Janet Wakefield (Linda Burby) Nelly Webb and parents (Kristin Andes), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

Stay connected! There are many new events in our future! 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 MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

Are you interested in becoming a member of Holy Covenant or interested in exploring what membership at Holy Covenant means? Join us today, and again **June 23rd**, following worship at 12:30pm in the conference room. The following Sunday, June 30th, we will welcome our new members into the church. If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Chris, RevChris@holycovenantucc.org, or contact the church office.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM INVITES YOU! JUNE 26, 6:30PM

We have a goal to update the church website, and in doing so, want to invite you to a brainstorming gathering! We'll review and chose new photos, list and ponder new content, and discuss layout formats. We need you to help us with *what catches your eye*, and *what keeps your attention!* *Web design experience is not needed!* We'll have some snacks and some fun just talking about changes we can put into motion. Let us know if you can join us Wednesday, June 26 at 6:30pm, Office@holycovenantucc.org.

CALL LETTER FOR 59th ANNUAL GATHERING of the SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

June 20-22, 2024, all of the members of the Southern Conference - the Delegates, Pastors, Laity, Youth, and Institutions of the Southern Conference are welcome to participate in the virtual gathering. More information available at <https://www.soc-ucc.org/>

SOJOURNERS CLASS, SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

We gather Sundays at 9:45am in the Conference Room, or via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89561758099?pwd=d1gvUmh3K2hCNmdidm1QdjllNkF5QT09>

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We welcome all in our congregation to participate in worship leadership. Download the app to make signing up even easier!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/mobileapp>

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, MDiv, MBA, Senior Pastor

RevChris@holycovenantucc.org, 314-402-8167

Jon Weddell, MDiv, MSW, Minister of Music

Dawn Simmons, BSBF, Executive Assistant

Mailing address: PO Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810