



Photo by Joice Kelly

“Regret for time wasted can become a power for good in the time that remains, if we will only stop the waste and the idle, useless regretting.”
– Arthur Brisbane

“Until we have finally accepted the fact that there is nothing we can do to change the past, our feelings of regret and remorse and bitterness will prevent us from designing a better future with the opportunity that is before us today.”
– Jim Rohn

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
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ HAPPY PRIDE!**

June 16, 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 "Thuma Mina" arr. M. Sedio

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 Pam Shimberg

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

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

One: This is a day of new beginnings.

Many: **This is a time for growing into discipleship.**

One: Come, let us prepare ourselves for worship.

Many: **Let us be prepared to be with God and for service to God. Here in the church, and soon out in the world!**

* Hymn 417

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

BEGINNINGS

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new.

Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Yourself: “I release my disappointments and claim God’s goodness for my life.”

Neighbor: “You release your disappointments and claim God’s goodness for your life.”

World: “We release our disappointments and claim God’s goodness for our life.”

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (*unison*)

Pam Shimberg

As we worship, let us take a moment to consider our own need for transformation and forgiveness...

Endearing God, you have created us in your image of love, yet regrettably there are times we have fallen short of that love. Times we have hurt others with our words, not acted as Christ would, or neglected opportunities that lay before us to usher in your kin-dom. We ask for your forgiveness and seek the transformation to do better in bringing forth your grace and love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Jesus says, “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Before us every day are opportunities to be transformed more and more into Christlikeness. Chances to show Jesus’ care and regard for all, occasions to display his love, and moments to partake in his passion for redemptive justice. May we seize such instants, knowing we are not the culmination of our past, but the beauty of who we are that is unfolding in the present. Amen.

Stories for All People

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

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.

Father’s Day 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 David Henry Thoreau, who was an early American philosopher and transcendentalist. In his writings he says...

Make the most of your regrets; never smother your sorrow but tend and cherish it till it comes to have a separate and integral interest. To regret deeply is live afresh.

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

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

Our Hebrew lesson for today comes from 1 Sam. 15:34-16:13, where Samuel and God grieve over the king Saul has become, and God asks Samuel to seek out a new king among the sons of Jesse...

Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah. Samuel never saw Saul again before he died, but he grieved over Saul. However, the Lord regretted making Saul king over Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I’m sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons.” “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “When Saul hears of it he’ll kill me!”

“Take a heifer with you,” the Lord replied, “and say, ‘I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you.”

Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. “Do you come in peace?” they asked.

“Yes,” Samuel answered. “I’ve come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice.” Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well.

When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the Lord’s anointed right in front.

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven’t selected him. God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart.” Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen this one either.” So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “No, the Lord hasn’t chosen this one.” Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord hasn’t picked any of these.” Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is that all of your boys?”

“There is still the youngest one,” Jesse answered, “but he’s out keeping the sheep.”

“Send for him,” Samuel told Jesse, “because we can’t proceed until he gets here.”

So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, “That’s the one. Go anoint him.” So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord’s spirit came over David from that point forward. Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

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 “The Power of Regret” Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Invitation to Generosity Pam Shimberg

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

We give because we have received. We return to God what has been shared with us, not because we have to, but because we are grateful. Grateful for the gifts that have blessed us and enriched us to feel loved and supported. As a sign of our gratitude to God, let us now joyfully offer our time, our treasure, our commitment, and our prayers.

* 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*) Pam Shimberg

Please join me in our unison prayer of dedication...

We give thanks to you, O God, for the many ways you have given yourself to us. Inspire us through divine stewardship to make good use of these blessed gifts. May they ignite our actions, echo your love, care for all your creation, and be instruments of your peace. Help us to use them to fulfill your purpose of building a radically welcoming and inclusive kin-dom in the world. Amen.

* Hymn 360 “Send Me, Lord” THUMA MINA

Meg Houlihan, cantor

Send me, Jesus. (3x) Send me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus. (3x) Lead me, Lord.

Fill me, Jesus. (3x) Fill me, Lord.

Life can be demanding, tough, laborious,
the road you travel so hard... that is a fact of life.
Look around, take note of where you are, of
what you are doing and whom you are with.
Listen to the sundry, yet distinct sounds all around,
from squeaks in the sky to peeps upon the ground.
Loosen up, enjoy this moment, this hour, this day,
for never again will you pass this way.
Let the sweet breath and beauty of nature
wash over your soul, experience the peace and comfort.
Lighten up this very moment; enjoy the life you have now...
Do it now!
Do not allow yesterday take you captive,
enslaving you to that which was.
Do not let tomorrow arrest you,
entombing you into that which may never be.
Do not pursue the intangible; instead exchange it
for what you may touch, hear and see.
Love life and everything about living...
Love the drum of your heart beating,
Love the taps of your feet walking,
Love the feel your lungs breathing.
Learn the lesson of enjoying life.
Life is sacred.
Life is swift.
Life is sweet.
Do it today!
Not tomorrow,
Not later on,
Not in a little while...
Do it now!

* 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

“Siyahamba”

M. Sedio

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*The liturgy for today’s service was written or adapted by
www.ministrymatters.com, UCC worship ways, www.liturgylink.net,
and 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: Christine Andersen, Mel Andersen

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

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, Cynthia Simpson, Ed & Beth Sharp, Anita Taylor,
Kim & Brittany Tyler

Friends & Family Members

Lianna (Kathleen Wagner), Beth, Michael & Julian Bliss (Robert Shepherd), 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), Randy & Crystal Taylor (Stephanie Herrin), 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 **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.socucc.org/>

Agenda:

June 20 - Worship, 7:00PM-9:00 PM

June 21 - Workshops, 10:00AM-8:00PM

June 22 - Business Session, 9:00AM-12:00PM

This event will educate, equip and empower you by providing workshops throughout the entire day that not only focus on ways to regain youth involvement but other important topics in ministry and the world today. General Admission \$25.00 +online registration fee, Youth 6th-12th grade, free. Many thanks to Jo Ann Jellison for being the delegate for HCUCC this year.

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>

Holy Covenant UCC will be closed this Wednesday, June 19th, in commemoration of Juneteenth.

Third Annual Queen City Juneteenth Parade and Cultural Celebration, Saturday, June 15, 2024, 9:00am-12:00pm

Central Piedmont Community College - Cato Campus, 8120 Grier Road, Charlotte, NC. A day filled with joy, unity, and celebration. Vendors: food, clothing, arts, crafts, and more.

<https://qcitymetro.com/2024/06/12/juneteenth-events-north-carolina/> for more area events and celebrations.

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