



Photo by Igor Goryachev\_ Unsplash

“Don’t give in to your fears.  
If you do, you won’t be able to talk to your heart.”  
– Paulo Coelho

“Make up a story...  
For our sake and yours forget your name in the street;  
tell us what the world has been to you  
in the dark places and in the light.  
Don't tell us what to believe, what to fear.  
Show us belief's wide skirt and the stitch  
that unravels fear's caul.”  
– Toni Morrison

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  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ HAPPY PRIDE!**

**June 23, 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 "Be Still, My Soul" arr. P. Rodriguez

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 Jim Dwiggins

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

One: When the waves of doubt threaten us...

Many: **God is with us.**

One: When fears seem to swamp our lives...

Many: **God is with us.**

One: When uncertainty or worry creeps in...

Many: **God is with us.**

One: **Awake! God is here!**

Many: **Rejoice we are loved!**

One: **Get ready! There is much to be done!**

Many: **Prepare us, Lord, for your will and work to be done. Amen.**

\* Hymn 488

“Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In every change God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: for God will undertake  
To guide in future days in the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
How Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here  
When we shall be with God whom we adore.  
With disappointment, gone, no grief nor fear,  
Sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Yourself: “In the face of worry, I release my fear and embrace my faith.”

Neighbor: “In the face of worry, you release your fear and embrace your faith.”

World: “In the face of worry, we release our fear and embrace our faith.”

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (*unison*)

Jim Dwiggins

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

Most loving God, we listen to stories of miracles and how we are told the impossible has occurred, yet in present times we doubt these things can happen today. Too quickly, are we threatened by waves of misfortune, despair, misery, or anxiety that occur. Too quickly do we let the flood of fear overtake and distress us. Forgive us for our quickness to doubt. Forgive us for our littleness of faith. And help us to recenter our hearts and minds in you. Amen.

Words of Grace

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Jesus had said this, not so those around him would ignore their fears or be unafraid of the realities they were facing, but so they wouldn’t be consumed by them. Help us in such moments to name our fears and worries, and in the same breath speak again of our trust in you. Help us to have faith you are guiding us forward, through the storms of life and to the lands of love, peace, and safety. Amen.

Stories for All People

Laura Hankins

Song of Preparation

“Try to Find Me”  
*Benjamin Rudolph*

by Graham Nash

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Alternative Lord’s Prayer (*unison*) by Fred R. Keip

**Indwelling God,**

**Infused throughout all existence,**

**We honor you with many names.**

**Your realm is within the human heart.**

**We accept life for all that it can be,**

**On earth as throughout all creation.**

**May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,**

**And may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.**

**May we ever move from separation toward union,**

**To live in grace, with love in our hearts, 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

Liz Colton

*Our modern lesson for today is from Cassandra Clare, who is a best-selling author of young adult fiction. She says...*

“Everyone is afraid of something. We fear things because we value them. We fear losing people because we love them. We fear dying because we value being alive. Don’t wish you didn’t fear anything. All that would mean is that you didn’t feel anything.”

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

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

\* Gospel Lesson Mark 4:35-41 (CEB) Jim Dwiggins  
*Our Gospel lesson for today comes from Mark 4:35-41, where Jesus and the disciples get into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee and a storm ensues...*

Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.

Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re drowning?”

He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, “Silence! Be still!” The wind settled down and there was a great calm. Jesus asked them, “Why are you frightened? Don’t you have faith yet?”

Overcome with awe, they said to each other, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

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 “Fear of the Storm and the Faith to Get Through It”

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Invitation to Generosity

Jim Dwiggins

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

Love is a powerful force in the world, stronger than hatred or fear or greed. The love of Jesus invites us to share generously the gifts we have received from God. These gifts are one way we demonstrate our love for one another and the world around us, the world God so dearly loves. Let us be as generous with our giving as God has been to us.

\* 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*)

Jim Dwiggins

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

Loving God, you know the heart of every giver. Bless them for all they do and the diversity of gifts they shared. Use what was offered this day to give hope to our neighbors, provide inspiration to those who need it, and move us toward living as the beloved church for all in our community and our world. To this we give and pray. Amen.

Poem                    “The Invitation” by Oriah Mountain Dreamer                    Lee Brigman  
“It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dream, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain! I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it, or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, to be realistic, to remember the limitations of being human.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true. I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul; if you can be faithless and therefore trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see beauty even when it's not pretty, every day, and if you can source your own life from its presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, “Yes!”

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have. I want to know if you can get up, after the night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done to feed the children.

It doesn't interest me who you know or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what sustains you, from the inside, when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.”

\* Hymn 251

“I Greet You, Sure Redeemer”

TOULON

I greet you, sure Redeemer, with my heart,  
Glad for the saving love that you impart,  
Who pain did undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.

You are the source of mercy and of grace,  
Reigning omnipotent in every place;  
So rule in us and our whole being sway.  
Shine on us with the light of your pure day.

You are the life, by which alone we live,  
And all our substance and our strength receive.  
Sustain us by your faith and by your power,  
And give us strength in every trying hour.  
Our hope is all in you and you alone;  
We trust the promise that your word makes known.  
O dear Redeemer, make us calm and sure,  
That in your strength we evermore endure.

\* 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

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

arr. J. Vogt

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*The liturgy for today's service was written by [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com),  
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:

Refreshments: Daytime 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. After worship, folks enjoy fellowship. Help us with light refreshments after worship on Sundays, plus set-up and clean-up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-sunday1#/>

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, Ed & Beth Sharp, Cynthia Simpson, Anita Taylor

**Friends & Family Members**

Lianna (Kathleen Wagner), Beth, Michael & Julian Bliss (Robert Shepherd), Melissa Brown, Phillip Cherry (Anne Pigg), Craig Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Pam Culp & Pam McGill (Melissa Noll), Connie Hildebrand, Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Charles Jernigan (Lee Brigman), Dave Johnson, Judah L. Jones & Bill Englebreth, Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Joe Parks (Beth Sharp), Ron & Fran Parrish (Terry Parrish), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), 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](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org).

**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**

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## 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 following worship at 12:30pm in the conference room. Next 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](mailto: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](mailto:Office@holycovenantucc.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=d1gyUmh3K2hCNmdidm1QdjllNkF5QT09>

### UCC Media Justice: Imagine Life Today *Without Internet...*

#### Help us save the ACP!

The United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry played a critical role in developing the **Affordable Connectivity Program**, and we need your help to save it! Senator Ben Ray Luján recently introduced a bill, S.4317, to save this critical program. It already has the support of a bipartisan coalition of senators. Will you send your senators a letter asking them to co-sponsor and pass this legislation? We cannot let the summer pass without refunding the program in time for kids to return to school. Internet is now a key tool in learning!

Will you add your name to our petition demanding that senators co-sponsor and pass the bi-partisan compromise it reflects? <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-the-senate-save-affordable-internet-for-millions>