



Photo source: Dreamstime

Sunday, is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. If the Church was born on Pentecost, that means the Holy Spirit did the birthing, making this passage one of the most powerful and overlooked scenes of the sacred feminine at work in Scripture.

-Rev. Matt Laney

I love the congregational system of governance, but I don't worship it. I have learned to work with its strengths: the strong ministry of the laity, shared decision making, and the excitement of not knowing who the Holy Spirit will speak through next.

-Rev. Lillian Daniel

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
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 14, 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 "Wonderful Words of Life" arr. D. Wyrzten

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Laura Hankins

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit "In This Very Room" Carol & Ron Harris

In this very room, there's quite enough love for all of us;
And in this very room, there's quite enough joy for all of us.

And there's quite enough hope, and quite enough power,
To chase away any gloom
For Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

* Call to Worship Pam Shimberg

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

One: Spirit of God, breath of life, touch each face with your love. Come.
Be with us and within us.

Many: **Melody of joy throughout creation, sing forth your notes of hope and healing. Come. Be with us and within us.**

One: Passionate Spirit, warm our hearts with the bright flame of your caring. Come. Be with us and within us.

Many: **Divine disturber, pour out your dreams into the imaginations of us all: women and men, old and young, slave and free.**

One: Host of the great banquet, set a feast of grace and gather us all around your table of hospitality. Come. Be with us and within us.

Many: **Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, we name you in the many ways we experience your call and your love. Come. Be with us and within us, today and forever.**

* Invocation (*unison*)

Pam Shimberg

Living, loving God, you sent your Spirit into creation, into your children, and into your church so that we might not be captive to fear. Through our worship, inspire us, we pray, to be prophets of the gospel and messengers of love. Open us to be ministers of reconciliation, in your name, we pray. Amen.

* Hymn 270

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

BRIDEGROOM

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
Like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
To the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
With the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Jon Heaslet

O Holy Spirit, our source of inspiration and hope, forgive us if we only seek you in calm places, if we only speak to you with easy words. Sometimes we find the world and its issues too complex. We settle for leaving big issues to others. Sometimes we find the world and its issues too far flung. We settle for remaining in familiar places. Open us now to new languages and to broader border-crossing understandings. Open us to new visions so that our words and our lives build up your realm and your people. And in your spirit of grace, forgive us when we depart from your way.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Jon Heaslet

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God’s Holy Spirit did not abandon us after that first Pentecost. God’s Holy Spirit is with us still, this very day, calling to us in mercy and grace that we might share this good news in our words and in our serving. Thanks be to God.

Stories for All People

Linda Heaslet

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:2-4

Rev. Jon Heaslet

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

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

Prayer for Illumination 283 (*sung*)

IVERSON

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (2x)

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me

Scripture Lesson

Joel 2: 26-29

Joy Decker

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my spirit.

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

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

Scripture Lesson

Acts 1.1-6

Pam Shimberg

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

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

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

The Good News

"Should We Print Up MIGA Hats?"

Rev. Jon Heaslet

Invitation to Generosity

Pam Shimberg

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

God has planted generosity within our beings. The gifts we receive are not for holding and creating idols, they are for the work of the kingdom, the building of beloved community, and manifesting God's abundance so that all may be well and whole.

During the month of July, Holy Covenant UCC also receives its Annual Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund. This fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. We will receive these offerings in the month of July. If you are moved to share your gifts, please notate "Christmas Fund" in the memo. Thank you for sharing your generosity with others.

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Pam Shimberg

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

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts of life and living. We give thanks by bringing our resources to community, to be shared and used for your kingdom, in our ministry, and for the world we inhabit. Bless and facilitate our generosity beyond our imagination. Amen.

* Hymn

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

D. Akers

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have
Been revived when we shall leave this place.**

* Benediction

Rev. Jon Heaslet

* Benediction Response 391

NEW DIMENSIONS

God of rainbow, fiery pillar
Leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Postlude

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”
Songs in this service are used by permission.
CCLI License #11439355; CSPL164710

arr. S. Nielson

The liturgy for today's service was written by Rev. Jonathan Heaslet. 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.

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/>

PLEASE WELCOME OUR GUEST PREACHER, REV. JONATHAN HEASLET

Jon Heaslet is a retired Army Captain, retired health economist, and retired UCC pastor. He was ordained by the Western Carolina Association in 1994 at the former Pilgrim UCC on Sharon Road. He served congregations in Ohio, Indiana, and Virginia. Following all these retirements, Jon began his current vocation as a writer. His first book *Hawks Nest Chronicles – Good News from Osceola, Iowa* is a novel in short stories (available at Park Road Books and Amazon.com). His second book *East of Apple Glen* is due to be released later this year. A graduate of the University of Iowa, University of North Carolina, and Eden Theological Seminary, Jon was ordained at Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Charlotte in 1994 having been mentored by Rev. Jim Humphrey and Rev. Banks Shepherd. Jon and Linda have been members of Holy Covenant UCC since 2019. Jon is married to Linda, a retired Christian educator. They have 5-children and a standard poodle.

SANDWICH BUILD, JULY 21 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

We'll assemble 400 sandwiches for our neighbors in need at the Men's Shelter/Roof Above. No experience needed! Join us for fun and fellowship!

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM INVITES PARTICIPATION FROM ALL, JULY 21

All are welcome to help out the Communications Team. Join us in the conference room July 21 at 12:30pm, as we chose the photos to be used on the website updating. Suggestions for content also welcomed. No tech training or knowledge is required!

SAVE THE DATE! JULY 28, 2024 "FEAST OF 5000" POTLUCK FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Special Offering to be taken to benefit those in the Gaza Strip - via World Central Kitchen Watch for sign-up coming soon.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY TEAM INVITES YOU

The Racial Justice and Equity Team is discussing a number of important issues, including the need for affordable housing. We are looking for people with expertise or interest in this area. Mel Anderson attended the city's Faith & Housing Summit on May 30 and provided an excellent overview of projects at several Charlotte churches. Several RJE members also have information and experience with these issues, and members of Holy Covenant's congregation have occasionally expressed interest in exploring whether we could use some of our land to meet the needs of the unhoused, the workforce or seniors. While Holy Covenant is not in the position now to launch a project of major scope, we could use a few interested people to learn more about the many available resources and opportunities and how they might fit with our mission of being a welcoming church that cares for all. If you are interested in exploring the issue of affordable housing in any way, please let RJE know by contacting RJE co-chairs Melissa McQueen-Simmons, revmelmcsimm@gmail.com, or Alix Felsing, alixfelsing@gmail.com.

SUMMER ALL-CHURCH READ: "OUR TRESPASSES"

All are invited to join Holy Covenant's All-Church Read this summer, which will culminate in an author visit Sept. 8.

"Our Trespases: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods" tells the story of Charlotte's Brooklyn neighborhood through the North family, displaced by urban renewal, and the white congregation of the First Baptist Charlotte that purchased their land from the city. This local history examines how race, geography, policy and religion haunt landscapes in Charlotte, as they do in cities across the country. Understanding this history is a vital step in Holy Covenant's journey to creating a more just and equitable community. **Author Greg Jarrell, an ordained minister, will preach at Holy Covenant during**

worship Sept. 8. Following worship and a break for light refreshments, Jarrell will discuss what he learned about the values and biases that are woven into Charlotte's development patterns. See the church newsletter for more data.

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>

WE PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:

D Evans, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian

Greeters: Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Jean & Terry Raley Dennis

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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>

Pastor Chris will be on vacation from July 1st through July 14th. Should you need pastoral care support while he's away, our Elder of the Month, Joy Decker, and retired UCC pastor Rev. Lloyd Spencer will be available. If a pastoral care need arises, we ask that you please contact the church office at 704-599-9810 or office@holycovenantucc.org, and our office manager will put you in contact with one of them depending on your spiritual needs.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Terry Parrish & Lee Brigman and family in the recent death of Terry's mother, Fran
Eric Miner & Ed Vickery and family in the recent death of Eric's brother, Jason
Haydock

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

Friends & Family Members

Beth, Michael & Julian Bliss (Robert Shepherd), Melissa Brown, Phillip Cherry (Anne
Pigg), Craig Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Pam Culp & Pam McGill (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 (Bill & Kim
Tyler), 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.

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