



# HOLY COVENANT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*-be the Church, everywhere*



*Photo by Substack Image Creator*

## A Place for You

-Rev. Jay Whitley

There is room at the table for you.

It is the table of grace.

It is a provision made for all of us.

For each there is a place.

This table of compassion is  
spread wide for one and for all...

No matter your past endeavors,  
or upon whose name you call.

You see...because this table belongs  
to our all-knowing, ever-present God.

Each place is set for anyone,  
no matter where you've trod.

You are precious in the sight of God,  
no matter what your name.

Believing that our diverse ideas  
can make us one in the same.

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**  
**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY ~ WELCOME SUNDAY**

**October 5, 2025, 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 "Jesus Loves Me" arr. J. Evanovich  
*Mary Tarr, violin*

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

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Prayer Rev. Christopher Czarnecki  
*Let us center ourselves in prayer as we gather for this time of worship...*  
One: God of Wonder, we come this morning as we are, some spiritually rooted, some uncertain, each of us trusting that what we bring is enough. Quiet the voice that tells us we must earn Your love and open us instead to Your presence already at work within us. In this hour of holy refuge, may our faith, wherever it is, be enough to guide us, ground us, and shape us in love. Renew us here, so that we may walk with courage and hope into the week that lays ahead. Amen.

Introit "The Summons" KELVINGROVE  
John L. Bell & Graham Maule  
**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

\* Call to the Heart

Eric Miner

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

One: Come to this table of love, for Christ welcomes us all.

Many: **LGBTQ+ siblings, trans and non-binary beloveds, queer families and rainbow kin. You are welcome here.**

One: Come to this table of love, for Christ welcomes us all.

Many: **Doubters, seekers, and those still figuring it out; those who feel like saints and those who feel like sinners. You are welcome here.**

One: Come to this table of love, for Christ welcomes us all.

Many: **People of every race, culture, and ethnicity; Indigenous and Native peoples, immigrants, and those whose roots run deep in this land. You are welcome here.**

One: Come to this table of love, for Christ welcomes us all.

Many: **Children, teens, and elders; introverts, extroverts, geeks, jocks, bookworms, and empaths. You are welcome here.**

One: Come to this table of love, for Christ welcomes us all.

Many: **Those with mental health struggles, those who are neurodiverse, those with disabilities, and those who carry invisible burdens. You are welcome here.**

One: Come to this table of love, for Christ welcomes us all.

Many: **Families of every shape and size; single parents, blended families, chosen families, those with two moms or two dads. You are welcome here.**

One: Come to this table of love, for Christ welcomes us all.

Many: **All God's people, near and far, eager and weary, joyful and hurting, you are welcome here. Amen.**

\* Hymn 72

“Here, O God, Your Servants Gather”

TOKYO (JAPAN)

Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;  
Looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.

As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:

Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;

Yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.

In despair our hope appears, calling age and youth:

Jesus, Teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.

Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease;

Where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?

Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife,

Jesus, Healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed, show us how love thrives,

Help us as we work and pray, send us for our lives

Truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife:

Jesus, Leader, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

## WELCOME AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Join us in welcoming our new members!*

Rena L. Monk - Teresa Eller - Kathy Gorman - Linda Miller

Martha & Kevin Battles - Rev. Windy & Angela Allison

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.

Stewardship Moment

Melissa & Von McQueen-Simmons and Camdyn

Song

“Come Build a Church”

Ken Medema

**Come build a church with soul and spirit,**

**Come build a church of flesh and bone.**

**We need no tower rising skyward; no house of wood or glass or stone.**

**Come build a church with human frailty,**

**Come build a church of flesh and blood.**

**Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.**

Stories for All People

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Song

“I Love the Lord”

R. Smallwood

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.**

**Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.**

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry and chased my grief away.**

**O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

Take Me As I Am (Iona)

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;**

**Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Modern Lesson

Jason Sullivan

*Our Modern Lesson for today comes from Samuel Rayan, who was a pioneer of Asian liberation theologian and Jesuit Priest long engaged in issues of injustice and inequality for the poor. Today's lesson is adapted from his writings on hope, Christian community, and faith. He says...*

**“We are called to live faith in the daily life of people, especially in the lives of the most marginalized and oppressed. Faith is not an ideal of grandeur but a practice of presence—break bread, share breath, care for the earth. When our faith is ‘thin,’ when we doubt or struggle, those are not disqualifications but openings. In those cracks the Spirit whispers louder. Trusting becomes enough. Love becomes the proof that God is already at work.”**

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

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

\* Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:5-10 (NRSV)

Eric Miner

*Please take a comfortable posturer that supports your reading and worshipping.*

*Our Gospel lesson today comes from Luke 17:5-10, where Jesus speaks of faith being like a mustard seed...*

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

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

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

“Is My Faith Enough?”

Invitation to Generosity

Eric Miner

*At Holy Covenant, we celebrate the many ways you share your gifts: through pledged support, spontaneous generosity, and acts of love in our shared life. If you'd like to give today, you can scan the QR code on the back of your bulletin to access our secure online giving options. Thank you for sustaining the ministries of love, welcome, and justice we are creating together.*

One: Jesus reminds us that even the smallest seed of faith can grow into a living witness of God's love. Our offerings are like those mustard seeds. Sometimes they may feel small, but in God's hands they can do great things: breaking the chains of oppression, healing wounds, opening doors of welcome, or providing refuge. As we give today, let us trust that every gift shared will take root in the soil of God's kin-dom, bearing fruit for the world.

\* Doxology

Baruch Hashem Adonai (ISRAEL)

**Baruch Hashem Adonai, Baruch Hashem Adonai,**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord, Baruch Hashem Adonai.**

\* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Eric Miner

*Please join me in a prayer of dedication for the gifts we have received...*

Gracious God, bless the gifts we share and the lives we offer. May they grow beyond what we can now see, nourishing your kin-dom of justice, compassion, and belonging. Use us, in all our imperfections and with all our faith, to embody the love of Christ that shines uniquely through us in every corner of the world. Amen.

**THE MYSTIC SUPPER**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME AT CHRIST'S TABLE**

Invitation                      Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, Rev. Melissa McQueen-Simmons

One: The Holy One be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

Two: Lift up your hearts in joy and hope.

**Many: We open them to God who gathers us in love.**

One: Let us give thanks to the One who makes us one family in Christ.

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

One: Holy and living God, from the very beginning, you created a world of difference: mountains and valleys, deserts and seas, creatures of every shape and size. You declared it good.

Two: You made humanity in your image, in all our diversity of cultures, languages, identities, and gifts. You called us beloved.

One: In every time and place, you have drawn your people to tables: tables of abundance and tables of struggle, tables of welcome and tables of resistance.

Two: And in Jesus, you showed us what your love looks like: love that breaks bread with outcasts and sinners, love that restores dignity, love that seeks liberation, love that makes room for every soul.

One: On this World Communion Sunday, we remember that across continents and islands, in chapels and cathedrals, under open skies and secret houses, in the sacred sanctuary of online spaces, your people gather in their own ways—with tortillas and cassava, with rice cakes and challah, with juice or wine, with simple water or tea—trusting that Christ is present among us.

Two: And here too, at this very table, Christ is present now. And so, we join our voices with all of creation, with every people and every language, singing:

[Sanctus] *Holy, holy, holy One, God of mercy and love,  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

LAND OF REST

Music during Communion      “A Place at the Table”      For Everyone Born  
*Refrain:*    And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
                 Compassion and peace:  
                 Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,  
                 Justice and joy!

#### Words of Institution

- One:    We remember that on the night Jesus gathered with his friends, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them saying: “This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me.” Let this be a sign that God will always love you.
- Two:    In the same way, after supper he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: “This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for all people. Whenever you drink it, remember me.” Let this be a sign that God will always be with you.
- One:    At this table, no one is excluded. Here, all are welcome: LGBTQ+ and straight, cis and trans, questioning and those certain, people of every race, culture, and background.
- Two:    This is Christ’s table, and here there is a place for you.

#### Prayer of Blessing and Spirit’s Presence

- One:    Pour out your Spirit, O God, on these gifts and on us.
- Two:    May this meal remind us that your love knows no borders, no barriers, no boundaries.
- One:    Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all of creation, until every table is a table of welcome, and all know they belong. Amen.

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Loving and liberating God, we thank you for this holy meal, for the taste of your grace and the promise of your welcome. Across nations and neighborhoods, across cultures and traditions, you make us one body in Christ. Send us out now with hearts renewed: to share love where there is hurt, to speak justice where there is silence, and to live as boldly and tenderly as Christ has taught us. Amen.



\* Hymn                      “Malo! Malo! Thanks Be to God”                      Jesse Manibusan  
                                       *(This is a call and response song giving thanks in many languages.  
                                       (Jon and Ed Vickery will sing first, then respond with bold phonetic spelling.)*

*Refrain:*

*Tongan: Malo! Malo! Thanks be to God!*

**Mah-loh! Mah-loh! Thanks be to God!**

*Portuguese: Obrigado! Alleluia!*

**O-bree-ga-doh! Alleluia!**

*Spanish/Korean:* Gracias! Kam sa ham ni da!

**Grah-seeahs! Kahm sah hahm nee dah!**

*Tongan: Malo! Malo! Thanks be to God!*

**Mah-loh! Mah-loh! Thanks be to God!**

Verse 1:

*Chamoru:* Si Yu'us  
maa'se!

**See joos  
mah-ah-sih!**

**Indonesian: Terima kasih!**

Three-mah  
kah-seeh!

**Tagalog:** Maraming  
salamat!

**Mah-rah-meeng  
sah-lah-maht!**

*German:* Danke schön!

# Dahn-kuh shuh(r)n!

*Polish:* Dziękuję!

**Jehn-koo-yeh!**

We thank you, Lord!

**We thank you, Lord! (Refrain)**

### Verse 2:

*Creole: Mési  
bokou!*

**Meh-see  
boh-koo!**

**Mandarin:** Xie xie!

**Shee-eh shee-eh!**

*Japanese:* Arigatō!

**Ah-ree-gah-toh!**

*Italian: Grazie!*

**Grah-tsee-eh!**

***Vietnamese: Cảm ỏn!***

# Gahm urn!

# We thank you, Lord!

**We thank you, Lord! (Refrain)**

### \* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

## \* Benediction Response

## “The Summons”

## KELVINGROVE

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

**In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Postlude

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

arr. M. Sedio

*Songs in this service are used by permission.  
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*Parts of the liturgy were 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, Jo Ann Jellison

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Laurence Winston, Dave Shimberg

Greeters: Jackie Freeze

Refreshments: Sojourners

Deacon of the Month: Tom Magraw (Martha Bomely)

Communion Preparation: Dawn Robinson

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT**

**GET ALL THE DETAILS FOR NEWS AND EVENTS AT**  
**<https://holycovenantucc.org/>**



*Your generosity builds a more inclusive church!*  
*Explore secure options available online*  
*<https://holycovenantucc.org/giving/>*

**WHOLY GROUND SPIRITUAL CENTER Celebrates 6 Years! October 5, 6PM**  
HCUCC Member Rev. Melissa McQueen-Simmons, Spiritual Director, celebrates 9 years of Ordination. Watch at Wholy Ground's YouTube channel  
<https://youtube.com/@wholygroundspiritualcenter7177?si=Q1Jt6oGq4qfenW46>

### **NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY, OCT. 9-11**

There are still appointment times available - **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 9-11**. We want to include all of our faith family! There is no obligation to make a purchase. Not able to make these dates? Contact the church office. There may be another photo op near you. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room and more information in the newsletter.

**THIRD QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS** have been distributed via email. If you have questions, or wish to have a printed statement, please contact the church office or Martha Bomely, Treasurer, [martha.bomely@gmail.com](mailto:martha.bomely@gmail.com).

**UNION COUNTY PRIDE, OCT. 11** - come be a part of sharing our church

**ALL CHURCH WORKDAY, OCT. 18 - 9AM-NOON**

**CHARLOTTE C.R.O.P. HUNGER WALK, OCT. 19**

### **STEWARDSHIP PLANNING FOR 2026**

Thank you to all of you who have made financial commitments. We have received a generous gift that will provide some financial resilience until we pay off our mortgage in the next few years. Setting aside that gift, pledges to the General Fund are at 58% of our \$140,000 goal as of noon, Friday, Oct. 3. Pledges to the Building Fund are at 68% of our goal of \$40,000. To make a financial pledge, go to <https://holycovenantucc.org/giving/> or scan the QR code:



## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to  
**[prayers@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org)**.

### **Members**

Mel & Christine Andersen, Liz Colton, Kevin Decker, Teresa Eller, Tina Ettesen, Kathy Habel, Eileen Howe, Jim & Faye Humphrey, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Benjamin Rudolph, Pam Shimberg, Anita Taylor

### **Friends & Family Members**

Beth, Michael & Julian Bliss (Robert Shepherd), Lester Brigman (Lee Parrish), Linda Burby, Kim Chamberlain (Kevin Decker), Cecelia Ciciollo (Dom Ciciollo), Erica Echeverri, Gloria Echeverri (Melissa Noll), Jason Field (Benjamin Rudolph), Kent Hansen (Kristen Fuchs), Samuel Head (Benjamin Rudolph), Doug Howe (Eileen Howe), Jeanne Hord (Diane Neese), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Matt, Brianna and Rhiannon Pacewicz (Dom Ciciollo), Tom, Beth and Ariel Rudolph (Benjamin Rudolph), Michelle Sharp (Beth Sharp), Ed Stack (Martha Bomely), Joyce Tyler (Bill Tyler), Tara Washburn (Patrick Washburn), Scott Whitley (Jay Whitley)

### **OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, Senior Pastor**  
**RevChris@holycovenantucc.org, 314-402-8167**

**Jon Weddell, Minister of Music**

**Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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