



HOLY COVENANT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

-be the Church, everywhere



Unsplash Photo by Eduardo Casajús Gorostiaga

“The lives of others have made it possible for us to be;
their love and faith still whisper through us,
urging us to keep building the world they dreamed.”

- Howard Thurman

“We stand upon the shoulders of those who dared to love and live fully;
may our lives be worthy of their dreams.”

- Maya Angelou

“Those we love are not gone; they live on in the pattern of our days
and the quiet shaping of our hearts.”

- John O'Donohue

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
ALL SAINTS & SOULS SUNDAY

November 2, 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 "Be Still My Soul" arr. P. Rodriguez

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: Holy One, we give thanks for the saints and beloved ones who shaped our lives who have gone before us. Those whose love, courage, and faith have shaped our own. For the ones who taught us how to hope, how to listen, how to care, we give thanks. As we worship today, may we feel their presence surrounding us and reminding us that we, too, are part of God's continuing story, called to keep building, keep loving, keep believing in what is yet to be. May the love that carried them now carry us, and may our lives, in turn, become a blessing to those who come after. Amen.

Introit "The Summons" KELVINGROVE
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 worship and reading...

One: We gather today, remembering the saints who have walked this path before us: those known and unknown, named and unnamed. We honor their courage, their faith, their love, and their witness.

Many: We remember them with gratitude, knowing that they have paved the way for us. Their light still shines within us.

One: We give thanks to saints who embodied compassion and justice, who spoke truth to power and cared for the vulnerable.

Many: Their spirits inspire us to continue their work, to be voices of love and hands of healing in our world.

One: We celebrate saints who showed us what it means to live with hope, to journey in faith, and to love without limits.

Many: In their memory, we rise with courage. In their honor, we stand with love.

One: May the lives of saints remind us that we, too, are called to this holy work, empowered by God's Spirit to build a world of peace, love, and justice.

Many: With grateful hearts, let us know follow in their footsteps, bound together in God's love. We worship, knowing that as God was with them, they are with us now. 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 as 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.**

A Time of Remembering Our Saints

In the center aisle are three tables, each with a lighting station and several votive candles. During this time, you are invited to come up and light one of the candles in memory of the saints and loved ones in your life. When finished please discard the matchstick head in the vase with the wet marbles and return to your seat. We will dismiss rows, starting in the back, as guided by the ushers.

Gift in Song

“Come Home”
Mary Tarr, violin

arr. J. Evanovich

Prayer of Remembrance and Gratitude

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

Pam Shimberg

Our Modern Lesson for today comes from bell hooks, who was an educator, writer, and social activist known for her work on challenging racism and gender. Among her writings she says...

“Those who came before us dreamed us into being. They worked, loved, resisted, and hoped so that we might live more freely. When we name them and remember them, we remember that we are part of a great continuum of love. Their lives were not perfect, but they were faithful to the possibility of transformation. Every act of care, every word of truth, every gesture of defiance has brought us here. Our remembering becomes a form of resistance—it keeps their love alive in the world. Let us carry forward what they gave us and make of our lives an offering to those yet to come.”

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

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

Our Scripture Lesson for today comes from the book of Revelation 7:9-17 (NIV), where John of Patmos shares his vision of a great multitude that will celebrate the victory of God's kin-dom...

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, 'they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

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. Belinda Sledge

"When All God's Children Gather at the Table"

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: Today, as we gather on All Saints Day, we remember and honor the great cloud of witnesses who came before us. We give thanks for their courage, their generosity, and their commitment to creating a community that reflects God's love and justice. Their legacy is a reminder that we, too, are part of this continuing story, called to carry forward the vision and spirit that they ignited. As we reflect on their sacrifices and gifts, let us consider how we can support and sustain this community and its future. May our gifts, like theirs, be a reflection of the transformative work God calls us to in the world.

* Doxology (Matt Laney)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**The saints of light are gathered 'round,
The great and small, the lost and found;
Saints past and present and to come:
Alive in you, O Holy One!**

Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Eric Miner

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

Loving God, we dedicate these gifts to you, given in love and remembrance of those saints who came before us. Bless our offerings, that they might be used to continue the work they began. May they help us build a world where your light shines through every act of kindness, every effort for justice, and every heart touched by welcome. In their memory and hope for what is yet to come, we pray. Amen.

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

Invitation to the Table

P1: Today, we gather in the spirit of All Saints Day, remembering those who have come before us: our ancestors in faith who shaped communities with their love, courage, and commitment to justice. We honor their legacy as we come together at this table, united in our diversity.

Many: **We remember the saints who taught us to love one another, even in our differences. We celebrate their witness, as we seek to embody their spirit today.**

P2: As we prepare our hearts for communion, let us acknowledge that we are not always of one mind. We may hold different political perspectives and disagree on various issues, yet we are called to be in community with one another. Here, at this table, we are reminded that our unity is found not in uniformity, but in our shared commitment to love and support one another.

Many: In this sacred space, we affirm that our differences enrich our community. We are called to listen, to learn, and to grow together, even when we struggle to understand one another.

P2: In the breaking of bread and sharing of cup, we are reminded of Christ's radical love. A love that welcomed all, broke down barriers, and transformed lives. A love that invites us to lay aside our judgments and embrace one another as beloved children of God.

Many: We come to this table with open hearts, ready to receive and to give grace. We are reminded that the body of Christ is diverse and beautiful, made up of all our stories, struggles, and triumphs.

Words of Institution

P1: On the night He was betrayed, Jesus gathered with His friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "*This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*" Let this be a sign that God will always love you.

Many: We remember the sacrifice of love that calls us to act justly, to love with mercy, and to walk humbly together.

P2: In the same way, after supper, He took the cup, saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me.*" Let this be a sign that God will always be with you.

Many: We are grateful for this covenant, which binds us together in love and grace, inviting us to see the Christ within one another.

P1: All things are ready, let us now share together in Christ's meal.

Distribution of Elements

Music during Communion "Draw the Circle Wide"

arr. M. Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. (2x)
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Loving God, we give thanks for this sacred meal. In this moment, we are reminded of the deep connection we have to you and with one another, one that transcends difference and unites us in love. Help us to embody this love, to be agents of peace, and to honor the diverse voices within our communities. Inspired by the legacy of those who have come before us empower us to live out the values of justice, compassion, and grace. May our lives reflect the light of Christ as we work together to build a better world for all. Amen.

* Hymn

“Go to the World!”

SINE NOMINE

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God’s redeeming grace.
Go seek God’s presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ’s own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!” Alleluia. Alleluia.

* 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

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

arr. L. Smith

Dawn Robinson, Jon Weddell, piano duet

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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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

WE PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:

D Evans, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, David Shimberg

Greeters: Pam Shimberg

Refreshments: Worship Team

WELCOME GUEST PREACHER REV. BELINDA SLEDGE

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Belinda Sledge this Sunday! She joins us on behalf of the UCC Southern Conference's *Call to Care Tour*, connecting with local churches across the conference to share encouragement and support.

SAVE THE DATE! HCUCC'S ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

As we do each autumn, it is soon time for our 2025 Annual Meeting, our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with the entire congregation. To conduct the business of the church we need a quorum - and that means we need our members to attend! This year the meeting will be held in-person and virtually.

Join us in worship on November 16 at 10:55am in the sanctuary or via live stream where we will integrate reports of the many ministries of the church during the service. Then join us at 12:15pm (on November 16th) in the sanctuary or via Zoom for business reports and voting on 2026 Proposed Budget and Class of 2028 Consistory. Bring your laptop or tablet and download the reports to help us from unnecessary printing. Votes that are cast in person and via Zoom will be included in the tally. The Zoom link, and 2025 Annual Report will be available soon! Watch for the announcement in The Loop!

Not able to join us? Absentee Ballots will be available, by request. Please contact the church office. Ballots must be returned no later than Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 10:45 a.m. in order to be counted. An Absentee ballot will not add to the count for a quorum and will only be counted after the votes of all members present are counted. Bring a favorite dish to share for the potluck following the meeting!

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT <https://holycovenantucc.org/events/>

Choir meets following worship each Sunday in November

11/02 Craft sale benefits T.O.Y. following worship

11/03 Sandwich Ministry 10-11:30AM Gathering Room

11/05 Daytimers Covenant Group luncheon noon
11/09 Consistory Meeting
11/16 HCUCC's Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck
11/20 Trans Day of Remembrance
11/23 Advent Decorating Party following worship
11/27 Community Thanksgiving at HCUCC
12/07 Room In The Inn begins
12/14 Cookie Exchange 12:15-1:00PM

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

Thanksgiving Day, we will be having a community Thanksgiving meal at the church in the gathering room. We will begin serving at 5:00pm. Turkey, ham, and drinks will be provided. Those attending are welcome to bring a side dish to share with others, but certainly not required! This meal is open to anyone, especially those who are without family or don't feel like making a big meal for just the few folks in their family. For questions, please contact the church office at 704-599-9810.

Please Remember in Prayer Members

Bill & Kim Tyler in the recent death of Bill's mother, Joyce Tyler
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), Tara Washburn (Patrick Washburn), Scott Whitley (Jay Whitley)

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

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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Jon Weddell, Minister of Music
Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant
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