



# HOLY COVENANT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*-be the Church, everywhere*



*Photo by Microsoft Image Creator*

**“The Holy Spirit is always dynamic, the power for any of the things God will do.”**

**- John W. Follette**

**“A holy spirit lives within you.”**

**- Leo Tolstoy**

**“The Holy Spirit is going to make sure we do church different.”**

**- Pamela Lightsey**

*Adapted from UMC Offertory Prayers*

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  
PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 24, 2026 10:55 am

*\* Your whole self is welcomed here. Please feel free to take care of your body during worship in ways that work for you.*

Prelude                   “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”                   arr. J. Vogt

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...*

Holy Spirit, we enter this moment, longing to become aware of Your quiet movement within us. Breathe in us a deeper stillness, that we might notice the gentle ways You nudge, comfort, and awaken us. As we gather for worship, help us sense Your presence not only here, but also in the subtle stirrings that shape our days. Let Your flame kindle within us a hope that renews us when we feel weary. Teach us to listen for Your whispers in our silence, and Your wisdom in our questions. Make us attentive to the ways You are moving among our worship today, in our breath, our songs, our prayers, and our imaginations. And when we leave this place, let us carry the winds and fire of Your Spirit of renewal into every corner of our lives, becoming the presence of Your love. Amen.

Introit 270                   “Like the Murmur of a 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.**

\* Call to the Heart

Rena Monk

*Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worshipping, reading, and singing...*

One: Come, Holy Spirit,

Many: **The wind of God, the breath of Life.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit,

Many: **Our Advocate, our Counselor.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit,

Many: **Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit,

Many: **Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit,

Many: **In the language of love and as the presence through which we worship.**

\* 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!**

*English:* 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:* Cám ỏn!

**Gahm urn!**

*English:* We thank you, Lord!

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

Monthly Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

**Ourselves:** The Spirit ignites me with purpose and life from the inside out.

**Neighbor:** The Spirit ignites you with purpose and life from the inside out.

**World:** The Spirit ignites us with purpose and life from the inside out.

Prayer of Transformation (*unison*)

Rena Monk

*Join me in prayer as we confess the ways in which we separate ourselves from God...*

**Wild and wonderous Spirit, we confess that we try to manage you, shaping your movement to fit our comfort, our plans, and our fears. We admit that we can resist your nudges, deny your invitations, and try to limit your work in us and in our world. Loosen our grip, open our hearts, and free us once again to follow wherever you lead. Amen.**

Words of Grace

Rena Monk

*Friends, hear this good news...*

The Spirit cannot be stopped, contained, or silenced. When we release our need for control, the Holy Spirit rushes in with power—transforming what we thought was unfixable and renewing what we believed was lost or too far gone. When we allow the Spirit to do what the Spirit does, we are changed, restored, and made alive again. May each of us, in our own way, feel God’s grace and forgiveness and join in the life-altering work of the Spirit. Amen

Song 286

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

SPIRIT

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness, calling and free,  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

Stories for All People

Dawn Robinson

Song of Preparation “God Is Calling through the Voices”

W ZLOBIE LEZY

**God is calling through the voices of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,  
Through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.  
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:  
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew  
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire;  
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.**

Modern Lesson

Pam Shimberg

*Our modern lesson comes from Desmond Tutu, who is a South African Anglican bishop and theologian, known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist. In a sermon delivered in Cape Town of 1982, he said...*

“The Holy Spirit is not a spirit of fear but of courage and love. The Spirit moves us to do what is right even when it is difficult, and to stand where Christ would stand. When the Spirit stirs in us, we find ourselves able to forgive, able to hope, able to begin again. The Spirit is God at work in us, transforming us from the inside out.”

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

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

Hebrew Scripture

Numbers 11:24-30 (NLT)

Rena Monk

*Our Scripture reading for today comes from Numbers 11:24-30, where a portion of the Spirit that had rested on Moses is shared with others...*

<sup>24</sup> So Moses went out and reported the Lord’s words to the people. He gathered the seventy elders and stationed them around the Tabernacle. <sup>25</sup> And the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Then he gave the seventy elders the same Spirit that was upon Moses. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But this never happened again.

<sup>26</sup> Two men, Eldad and Medad, had stayed behind in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the Tabernacle. Yet the Spirit rested upon them as well, so they prophesied there in the camp. <sup>27</sup> A young man ran and reported to Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!”

<sup>28</sup> Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ assistant since his youth, protested, “Moses, my master, make them stop!” <sup>29</sup> But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them all!” <sup>30</sup> Then Moses returned to the camp with the elders of Israel.

**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 Spirit Goes Where It Needs To”

Invitation to Generosity

Rena Monk

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

God has poured out its Spirit on all people, young and old, insiders and outsiders, leaders and servants alike. God does not withhold gifts and blessings but shares them freely. As your Spirit-filled people, we now offer our gifts, not out of fear or obligation, but in response to God’s boundless generosity. May these offerings fuel our prophetic witness, blessing all who still yearn for hope, and to build a community where every person is seen, heard, and loved. May our giving, like God’s Spirit, be poured out without limit.

Today is the United Church of Christ’s Strengthen the Church offering, one of the UCC’s five annual denominational offerings. This offering expresses our shared commitment to building up the wider church through initiatives such as supporting leadership development, new church starts, youth ministries, and innovative work in UCC congregations across the country. A gift, in any amount, helps us remain a 5 for 5 church, recognized for contributing to all five annual UCC offerings. If you are giving to this special offering today, please write “Strengthen the Church” on the front of your envelope or on the memo line of your check. Let us now share our gifts with God.

\* Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Rena Monk

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

**Spirit of the Living God, you pour out your gifts upon us and call us into ministries beyond our imagination. As we offer these gifts, we dedicate them and ourselves once more to your work. The work of strengthening the church, nurturing new life, and embodying hope for all who seek it. Take what we have given, and as the movement of Spirit, may it go where it is needed. Amen.**

\* Hymn

“Though I May Speak”

GIFT OF LOVE

Though I may speak with bravest fire  
And have the gift to all inspire  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship and are freed.

\* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

\* 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

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

arr. J. Innes

*Songs in this service are used by permission.  
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*Parts of the liturgy for today's service were adapted by Joanna Harader at <https://spaciousfaith.com/>, Rev. Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia, Steve Garnass-Holmes, adapted from UMC Offertory Prayers, 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

Children's Church: Laura Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison

Ushers: Dominic Ciciollo, Laurence Winston, Shakti Subramanian

Refreshments: Suzanne Lamorey

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

*Your generosity builds a more inclusive church!*

*Explore secure options available online*

<https://holycovenantucc.org/giving/>



*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 to access our secure online giving options. Thank you for sustaining the ministries of love, welcome, and justice we are creating together.*

- **May 20-26** Church Office Closed
- **May 25** Memorial Day Observed
- **May 30** UCC Women's Conference, Greensboro
- **May 31** Trinity Sunday - Laity Sunday
- **June 13** All Church Workday 9:00am-1:00pm

### MISSIONS AND JUSTICE INVITES YOU...

**Sandwich ministry for A Roof Above Day Center today!** Join us in making 400 sandwiches after worship for our yet-to-be housed neighbors!

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING DURING MAY

The United Church of Christ has 5 yearly special offerings. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. HCUCC will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday. Notate your donation as "STC". No need to wait! You can make your offering on the church website anytime in the month of May. Look for the Give button.

## **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

We welcome all in our congregation to participate in **worship leadership, ushering, greeting, and fellowship time**. Sign up in the gathering room or click the **Volunteer | SignUp Genius** button on our website: <https://holycovenantucc.org>.

### **Please Remember in Prayer**

#### ***Members***

Mel Andersen, Kathy Habel, Jim & Faye Humphrey, Melissa Noll, Lee Parrish, Anita Taylor, Fan Watson, Alice & Sally Phelan-Young

#### ***Friends & Family Members***

Amanda (Linda Burby), Laura Allison, Joan Bowling (Kristen Fuchs), Lester Brigman (Lee Parrish), Linda Burby, Kim Chamberlain (Kevin Decker), April Dawson, Erica Echiverri, Gloria Echiverri (Melissa Noll), Cherice Fequiere (Deborah Winston), Jason Field (Benjamin Rudolph), Mario Gaetani and family (Kristen Fuchs), Ann Garret (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz), Samuel Head (Benjamin Rudolph), Jack Hillard (Barbara Schneller), Jeanne Hord (Diane Neese), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Charlie Holt (Autumn Holt), Judson Hulse (Kristen Fuchs), Renee Lewis (Martha Battles), Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Matty McKinnon (Joy Decker), Tom, Beth and Ariel Rudolph (Benjamin Rudolph), Juan Sullivan (Martha Bomely), Tiffany Turner (Terry Raley-Dennis), Dave & Jennifer Ward (Jay & Cathy Whitley), Scott Whitley (Jay Whitley)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to [prayers@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org). We periodically adjust our prayer list. If you would like to have someone added back, please contact the office.

### **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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