



HOLY COVENANT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

-be the Church, everywhere

Hallelujah!

**Praise God in this
holy house of worship,
praise God under the
open skies;**

**Praise God for their
acts of power,
praise God for their
magnificent greatness;**

**Praise with a blast
on the trumpet,
praise by strumming
soft strings;**

**Praise God with
castanets and dance,**

**praise God with
banjo and flute;**

**Praise God with
cymbals and a big bass drum,**

**praise God with
fiddles and mandolin.**

**Let every living, breathing
creature praise God!**

Hallelujah!



Psalm 150 from The Message (adapted)

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
MUSIC SUNDAY

August 30, 2026, 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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. L. Larson
Dawn Robinson, Patrick Washburn, piano duet
Favorite of Joy Decker

Welcome and Announcements Ed Vickery
 One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
 Many: **And also with you.**

Chiming of the Hour

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.

There's a space for grace in our hearts. (2x)
It's in learning to forgive that our spirits truly live,
There's a space for grace in our hearts.

O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, we bless your holy name.
O, Alleluia, sing alleluia,
There's a space for grace, there's the presence of peace,
There's a spirit of love in this place.

* Call to the Heart Psalm 92:1-2; 95:1-2 Jeffery Edwards-Knight

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

One: O Lord, open our lips,

Many: and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

One: It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,

Many: to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Many: Let us come before God with thanksgiving and extol God with music and song.

* Hymn NCH 488

“Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

Favorite of Meg Houlihan

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.

Prayer for Transformation (*unison*)

Jeffery Edwards-Knight

One: God of all harmony, you created music to echo your glory, and you invite us to sing your praise. Yet our lives often fall out of tune.

Many: Forgive us, Lord.

One: We confess that our worship is often lukewarm. We treat praise like a performance, worrying more about sound than substance, and melody than mercy.

Many: **Forgive us, Lord.**

One: We sing words of surrender with our lips, while holding tightly to our pride. We raise our hands in adoration yet close our hands to our neighbors in need. We let the music wash over us but refuse to let your truth change us.

Many: **Lord, tune our hearts to your grace. Silence our noisy distractions and tune our lives to the rhythm of your love. Amen.**

Words of Grace

Jeffery Edwards-Knight

Beloved, hear the good news: Our Creator does not look at our broken notes or our silent failures, but redeems our song. In Christ, your sins are forgiven. Let your hearts be glad, lift your voices, and live in God's peace. Amen.

Historical vs. Modern Versions

Jon Weddell

"Gloria Patri" vs. "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Hymn

"Gloria Patri"

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen, amen.

Hymn

"Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Christ, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Stories for All People

Martha Bomely

Hymn

"Lord of the Dance" (I Danced in the Morning)

SIMPLE GIFTS

Judah L. Jones, D Evans, Martha Battles

Favorite of Martha Bomely

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,

I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,

I came down from heaven, and I danced on the earth,

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: Dance, then, whoever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -
They came with me and the dance went on. (R)

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame. //
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the world upon your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance, and I still go on. (R)

They cut me down, and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you as you live in me,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. (R)

Hymn

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

WORLD PEACE

Favorite of Anonymous

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Prayer and Introduction

Jay Whitley

One: Creator God, because you make all that draws forth our praise and the forms in which to express it,

Many: we praise you.

One: Because you make artists of us all, awakening courage to look again at what is taken for granted, grace to share these insights with others, vision to reveal the future already coming into being,

Many: we praise you.

One: Because you form your Word among us, and in your great work embrace all human experience, even death itself, inspiring our resurrection song,

Many: we praise you. Yours is the glory. Amen.

Hymn

“El Shaddai”

Amy Grant

*Meg Houlihan, Terry Raley-Dennis, D Evans
Favorite of Jay Whitley*

El Shaddai, El Shaddai,
El-Elyon na Adonai,
Age to age You're still the same,
By the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai,
Erkamka na Adonai,

1st & 2nd time: We will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai

3rd & 4th time: I will praise you till I die, El Shaddai

Hebrew Scriptures & Introduction

Pam Shimberg

Psalm 95:1, 104:33, 147:1 (CEB)

Our Hebrew Scripture selections from Psalms remind us that it is good to make a joyful noise for the Lord!

Come, let's sing out loud to the Lord!

Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation! Ps. 95:1

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I'm still alive. Ps. 104:33

Praise the Lord!

Because it is good to sing praise to our God!

Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise! Ps. 147:1

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.

Hymn NCH 237

“In the Garden”

GARDEN

Favorite of Pam Shimberg

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

Refrain: And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet
The birds hush their singing;
And the melody that he gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. (R)

I'd stay in the garden with him,
Though the night around me be falling;
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling. (R)

Hymn

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

Favorite of Anonymous

Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning;
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning;
God's re-creation of the new day.

Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19, Acts 16:25(CEB)

The New Testament scriptures remind us to share the Good News with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. COL. 3:16

...speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts; EPH. 5:19

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ACTS 16: 25

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

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

Hymn NCH 224

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
Favorite of Carl Johnson

HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Christ of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, then, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.

From sacred head, from hands, and feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Hymn

“Amen”

AMEN

Favorite of Pam Shimberg
Angela Allison, D Evans, Benjamin Rudolph

Amen! (5x)

Tunes: What’s in a Name? [optional]

Jon Weddell

Hymn

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER/CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed.

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay.

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Invitation to Generosity and Introduction

Kevin Decker

Just as music lifts our voices and tunes our hearts to praise God, our financial gifts are a tangible song of thanksgiving. Today, as we celebrate the gift of music in worship, let us offer our resources with the same joy, harmony, and generosity that we bring to our stewardship and our song.

Hymn NCH 207

“Just as I Am”

WOODWORTH

Favorite of Kevin Decker

**Just as I am, without one plea but that your love was giv’n for me,
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears with in, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, your love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH, words by M. Luti

Praise God whose mercies never cease;

Whose justice raises up the least;

And sits all creatures down to feast;

God’s mercy is our hope and peace! Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*) Jeffery Edwards-Knight
Please join me in a prayer of dedication for the gifts we have received...
Giver of every good gift, you fill our lives with music, beauty, and grace.
Accept these offerings as a joyful melody of our gratitude. Tune our hearts
closer to your mission, and use these gifts to amplify your love in our
community. Amen.

* Closing Hymn 433 "Hymn of Promise" PROMISE
Favorite of Jay Whitley

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

* Benediction (*unison*) Psalm 150 Jon Weddell

* 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 "How Great Thou Art" arr. L. Bergquist
Favorite of Dawn Robinson

*Songs in this service are used by permission.
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*Liturgies today were adapted from Calvin Institute of Christian Worship,
Google Gemini, and UCC Worship Ways resources.*

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, Dave Shimberg

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian

Greeters: Anne Hayes, Deborah Winston

Refreshments: Kevin Edwards-Knight

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT
holycovenantucc.org/event-listings/

Your generosity builds a more inclusive church!

Explore secure options available online

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



- TODAY Sandwich Build following worship
- Sep. 07: Labor Day - office closed
- Sep. 13: Rally Day with All Church Potluck
- Sep. 18 & 19: Congregational Strategic Planning Weekend
 Please RSVP and plan to attend!
- Sep. 26: RJ&E Civil Rights Trail Outing,
 Davidson Col. Sculpture & Museum

**Please Remember in Prayer
Members**

Mel Andersen, Jean Raley-Dennis, Kathy Habel, Jim & Faye Humphrey, Lee Parrish, Anita Taylor, Alice & Sally Phelan-Young

Friends & Family Members

Farug Brown Bey (Jeffery Edwards-Knight), Joan Bowling (Kristen Fuchs), Lester Brigman (Lee Parrish), Randy & Tina Buie (Diane Neese), Kim Chamberlain (Kevin Decker), Cecelia Ciciollo (Dom Ciciollo), April Dawson, Mario Gaetani and family (Kristen Fuchs), Ann Garret (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz), Ivory Garvin and family (Von McQueen-Simmons), Charlie Holt (Autumn Holt), Judson Hulsey (Kristen Fuchs), Janet Kominski (Dawn Simmons), Renee Lewis (Martha Battles), Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Matty McKinnon (Joy Decker), Geraldine Mobley (Jeffery Edwards-Knight), Marie Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Brenchia Thomas, Steve Thomas (Jeffery Edwards-Knight) June Washburn (Patrick Washburn), Scott Whitley (Jay Whitley)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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