



Silent Meditation

**You cannot give what you are *not*,
nor would God want it.**

**You can only give what you *are*,
warts and all, and
it is the very giving back that delights the Creator—
not the supposed perfection of the gift.**

~ Richard Rohr

**Our greatest problem is not how to continue
but how to exalt our existence.**

~ Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 6, 2016

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

*(Please pass the friendship pads so that all worshippers
have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Invocation (*unison*)

Terry Parish

O God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of all who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints who surround us like a great cloud of witnesses. We honor that host of ordinary saints, who in this day and place, faithfully love and serve you. We remember all who have peacefully died, especially those most dear to us who rest in you. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

* Passing of the Peace

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the peace of Christ is here to stay.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

* *All rise in body or spirit* ☩ *Sing Response* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
‘mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And share with them a glorious crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
Then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Children’s Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

(Following the Children’s Message, pre-schoolers may go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children’s Church.)

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 6:20-31

Gregg Walker

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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

Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Reflection

“An Exalted Existence”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayers of the People & Litany of Remembrance

Gregg Walker

One: O Risen Christ, today we remember with fondness all your saints who have been called to their eternal home, especially those from our church community who have died during this past year: Ray Reichert, Kevin Kiser, Jean Washburn, Paul Bomely, Chuck Johnson, Nina Gallanes. There are others who have died over the past year who were important to us. There are those who we continue to miss, although more than a year has passed since they were with us. At the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember them.

One: At the rustling of the leaves, and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

Many: During the holiday occasions, and at the year's end, we remember them.

One: As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

Many: When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

One: When we are lost and sick in heart, we remember them.

All: When we have joy we want to share, we remember them. We offer all these memories into your care and keeping, knowing they are held always in your presence. Amen.

Gift of Music

“Precious Memories”

Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, vocals

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: We gather at this table, God’s table;

Many: The table has been set long before we were born.

One: There are places for all who have gone before us,

Many: We take their hands as we approach to share life.

One: You are welcome at this table, Christ’s table.

ALL: Loved ones are gathered with us from all generations. We lift up the memories of those we no longer see, we open our hearts to the presence of loved ones who are with God, for God dwells within us. This is the table of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of restoration. This is the table for all the saints of God.

One: We lift our hearts in gratitude and unity as together we pray,

ALL: Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

Ushers will direct you to come forward to receive communion and light a candle to remember the saints in your life.

*Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.
The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.*

Music during Communion

"In the Sweet By and By"

**There's a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar
For our maker waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.**

*Refrain: In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore*

**We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed
And our spirits shall sorrow no more
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest *Refrain***

**To our bountiful maker above
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of Christ's love
And the blessings that hallow our days
And the blessings that hallow our days *Refrain***

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks”

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day.
There, God the Son forever reigns
And scatters night away.

Refrain: I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promise Land.
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promise Land.

No chilling wind, no poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore
Where sickness, sorrow, pain and death
Are felt and feared, no more. *Refrain*

When I shall see that happy place
I'll be forever blessed,
All those I lost, at last embrace,
And in God's bosom rest. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion (*in unison*)

In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and these people, we give ourselves to you. Lead us forward to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us. And thus Living God, may we live as your saints in this world. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:2-9

Debbie Davis

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...Grace to you and peace from the Living God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched through Christ, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ...God is faithful; through God you were called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

The Baptism and Reception of New Members

Questions of the Candidates & the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Response of the Congregation

Pastor: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

Congregation:

We welcome you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture and beyond; to walk with you in joy and sorrow; to support you, laugh with you, 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.

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offertory

Jared Fischer

* Doxology

ELLACOMBE

φ As saints of old their first-fruits brought of orchard, flock and field,
To God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ Your Son,
Teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

* Offertory Dedication

Gregg Walker

Song of Resurrection

“Ain't No Grave”

O, my Lord, it's a winding road
And my heart aches from a heavy load.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
But ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

O, my Lord, I can barely sing
Waiting for You and Your reckoning.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

Chorus: I will rise! I will rise! (2x)

*Trouble comes for everyone;
Death has no respect for love.
Roll that stone I won't be found;
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.*

Lord, I'm crooked from head to toe
And whether death takes me fast or slow
You'll raise me then and you you'll raise me now!
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down! *Chorus*

Oh my Lord, I can barely see
Through this fog pressing in on me.
Angels humming, can you hear the sound?
Ain't no grave gonna HOLD ME DOWN. *Chorus*

* Hymn 382

“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”
(stanzas 1, 2, 5)

MARCHING TO ZION

Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;
To-gether God's great love pro-claim, (2x)
and thus sur-round the throne. (2x)

Refrain:

We're march-ing to Zi-on,
beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful Zi-on;
We're march-ing on-ward to Zi-on,
the beau-ti-ful cit-y of God.

Let those re-fuse to sing who nev-er knew our God;
But we our thanks and praise will bring, (2x)
for love so deep and broad. (2x) *Refrain:*

Then let our songs a-bound, and ev-ery tear be dry;
We're trav-eling through Em-man-uel's ground, (2x)
to great-er world on high. (2x) *Refrain:*

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

“I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning, when this life is o’er - I’ll fly away
To that home on God’s celestial shore - I’ll fly away

*Chorus: I’ll fly away oh glory, I’ll fly away (in the morning)
When I die hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away*

When the shadows of this life have gone - I’ll fly away
Like a bird from its prison bars has flown - I’ll fly away *Chorus*

Oh how glad and happy when we meet - I’ll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet - I’ll fly away *Chorus*

Just a few more weary days and then - I’ll fly away
To a land where joys will never end - I’ll fly away *Chorus*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

We welcome all who worship with us at Holy Covenant. Guests and members, we invite you to sign our friendship pads so that we may have a record of your worshipping with us and be in touch with you during the week. Members, please indicate any changes in your contact information. We invite our visitors and members to linger following worship and join us in light refreshments and conversation.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Richard Chapman - Jeff Rivenbark; **Terrence & Anne Hayes** - Bill & Connie Hildebrand; **Suzanne Hopkins** - Debbie Davis; **Tony & Sharon Salerno** - Carl & Phyllis Johnson; **Darin Spencer** - Tommy Tomlinson & Alix Felsing; **Gregg Walker** - Jean Berg.

CENTURY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Remembering our 100 year journey of FAITH

Our Century Sunday Celebration - is almost here! Please bring your vintage artifacts to church THIS Sunday to be included in our display. Place your items in the prayer chapel - and use a label to identify yourself as the owner. If you can't come this Sunday, please bring your item no later than Friday, Nov 11. Your **cherished photos** will best be brought on **Nov 13** as you help decorate the buffet line with an array of family memories. We anticipate much excitement as we relive our *Century of Faith*.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Many thanks to all who have turned in their pledge cards for 2017. Through October, we have received 49 family pledges towards our General Fund 2017 ministries and 22 family pledges towards our Building Fund mortgage needs. Each pledge matters greatly for the missions and work of our church, and currently we are over 75% of our goal to meet next year's budget needs. Please turn in your family **pledge card** or email our church administrator, Dawn Simmons at office@holycovenantucc.org as soon as possible. We are grateful for the many new pledges, and the generosity of all at Holy Covenant.

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 20

Our 2016 Annual Meeting is our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with all of the congregation. In order to conduct the business of the church we need a quorum - and that means we need our members present! In connection with our anticipated sale of the Sharon Road property, Consistory is proposing the creation of an Endowment Fund and the policies governing the fund will be presented. Copies are found in the nave or in our weekly email. If you have any questions about any of these documents, please contact Consistory President Robert Furr at 704-453-9042 or robbie@holycovenantucc.org.

ENDOWMENT POLICY DISCUSSION

Join us via conference call on Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 PM. Call in: **605-562-3000**, *access code 644557#* -or- on **November 13** when Cheri Lovell will be available to work through the Endowment Policy with any interested individuals following worship.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

Imagine a world without discrimination and oppression, poverty, violence. Imagine a world without hunger. We will receive this special offering on November 20.

NOVEMBER 20 POTLUCK LUNCH

Please join us following the meeting for a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite dish, or perhaps a new one from the Centennial cookbook to share!

HOLY COVENANT ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Our holiday bazaar will be Sunday, December 4, with a Wine and Cheese Preview Party on Saturday, December 3, 4pm-7pm. If you are interested in selling your creative gifts at our bazaar, please let Debbie Davis know **by November 20** at debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com so we can reserve a table for you. Twenty percent of sales will benefit the Guatemala Missions Fund.

3Q2016 GIVING STATEMENTS

Third Quarter Year to Date Giving Statements have been distributed. Please check your email (or mail box) for your statement. Contact Dawn in the church office with questions or to opt out of emailed statements. (2016 Annual statements will be mailed to all contributors in January 2017).

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:

Elder of the Month: Phil Kaveler

Greeters: Judi Lord, Lisa Sherman

Media: Brian Hankins

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barbara Schneller, Moses Taylor

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Julie Klever

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Leanne Bushman, Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Yami Senturias, Sheryl Stogner, Kathleen Wagner

Friends & Family Members

McKenzie (Sue Godfrey), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Matthew Christian, (Beth Sharp), Andrew Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk (Donna Collins), Frances Helms (Lynn Helms), CD & Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Sarah Mitchell (Scottie Foster), Pat & JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey), Jennifer Owens (Donna Collins), Ron Parrish (Terry Parrish), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson), Janet Watson (Donna Collins), Charles Weaver (Susan Rettberg), Doris Wright (Kathleen Wagner)

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.

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor

Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director

Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810