



“They say nobody is perfect. Then they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they’d make up their minds.”

~ Winston Churchill

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that.”

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

~St. Augustine

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 19, 2017

Gathering Music

David A. Smith

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

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

Opening Voluntary

* Call to Worship *(from Ecclesiastes 3)*

Ed Sharp

One: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter
under heaven:

Many: **A time to be born and a time to die; A time to plant, and a
time to pluck up what is planted;**

One: A time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep
and a time to laugh;

Many: **A time to keep and a time to throw away; A time to be silent
and a time to speak;**

One: A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for
peace.

Many: **God makes everything suitable for its time. God provides a
sense of past, present and future for our minds.**

One: God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before the
Living One. Whatever God does endures forever.

All: **Eternal Creator, you have placed us in a world of space and
time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with
your love. Grant that we may know your presence, see your
love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us
joy forever. Amen.**

** All rise in body or spirit ☩ Sing Response ✕ Seating by Ushers*

* Passing of the Peace

One: Come, 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.

* Hymns

“O How I Need You”

Lord I find You in the seeking, Lord I find You in the doubt
And to know You is to love You, and to find you in all else

Refrain: I need You, O how I need You!
O how I need You, O how I need You!

Lord I find You in the morning, Lord I seek You everyday,
Let my life be for Your glory, woven in Your threads of grace. *Refrain*

Light, glorious light, I will go where You shine
Break the dawn, crack the skies, make the way bright before
In Your light I will find all I need, all I need is You. *Refrain*

“Us for Them”

When the lines are drawn, when you're in or out,
When it's us or them, and we shame the doubt,
It is all a lie, all we ever really need is love,
There's no need to shed more blood

Look upon the cross. Look upon the cross.
See the face of Christ; see the mercy in His eyes,
Every valley shall be lifted high.
Now, our enemies are blessed, the heavy laden rest,
For His judgment is love

There is no more guilt, there is no more shame,
All our darkest sin, all our deepest pain.
Blessed are the poor, all the lonely broken lost and torn;
See a kingdom comes to us.
A war that's fought with love, our only war is love.

Prepare the way of the Lord, wielding mercy like a sword,
Every mountaintop will be made low.
Know, He holds the earth like dust, and His judgment comes to us,
And His judgment is love, His judgment is love.

We will not fight their wars, we will not fall in line,
Cause if it's us or them, it's us for them.
We reject the either or, they can't define us anymore,
Cause if it's us or them, it's us for them.

Children's Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Hymn 388

“Help Us Accept Each Other”
(stanzas 1, 3)

AURELIA

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
I living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Gift of Music

“Love In Any Language”
Jared Fischer, piano; Yasmine Senturias, soprano

Mohr and Mays

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5: 38-48

Gregg Walker

‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

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

Sermon

“Be Perfect? Love My Enemies?”

Gregg Walker

Modern Affirmation

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,
whose holy faith let us now declare:

All: We believe in God,
infinite in wisdom, power and love,
whose mercy is over all God's works,
and whose will is ever directed to her children's good

We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of God's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,
to the end
that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music

David A. Smith

* Offering Response

SCHUMANN

ϕ We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, we give it gratefully.

Offertory Dedication

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Hymn

“Down by the Riverside”

I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside.

I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,
I'm gonna study war no more
Well, I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield...
I'm gonna study war no more. *Refrain*

Refrain: I ain't gonna study war no more...

Well, I'm gonna put on my long white robe, down by the riverside...
I'm gonna study war no more.
Well, I'm gonna walk with my Jesus, down by the riverside...
I'm gonna study war no more. *Refrain*

* Benediction

Gregg Walker

* Benediction Response (581)

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

φ Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust,
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

Postlude

Jared Fischer

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.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MARCH 12

On the recommendation of our Budget & Finance Team, Consistory is calling for a Congregational Meeting following worship on March 12 for the purpose of re-negotiating the terms of our current loan.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, MARCH 1, 7:00PM



The forty days before Easter begin with our Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. It's a time that calls us to new life and challenges us to live our "best" life for forty days. Join us for this meaningful opportunity for self reflection and prayer.

DIVING LESSONS, 2017 Lent Devotional

Diving Lessons is a fresh collection of unique Lenten devotions that includes an insightful scripture verse and prayer for each day of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 16, they will be available in the Gathering Room soon.

SEASON OF LENT DISCIPLINES OF DISCOMFORT

If the church's call is to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable" - there's no better time for that affliction than the Season of Lent! Find a way to move out of your comfort zone this Lent and see what impact the disorientation has on your spiritual growth. Here is a sampling of 'disciplines' available.

A Day Apart, Saturday, March 11, 10 AM - 3 PM

Celebrate the glories of God and a beautiful spring with opportunities for spiritual nourishment through poems, scripture, centering exercises,

journaling, walking, and opportunities for sharing with others. New member, Rev. Anne Findlay-Chamberlain will join Nancy in leading the retreat day.

12 X 12 CHALLENGE

Can you join our Mission and Justice Team in accepting the challenge to do justice and show mercy through taking one specific action each month that helps heal our wounded world? One a month is the 12X12 challenge! Look for our official kickoff coming soon. When you complete a challenge activity, email lisacmsw@hotmail.com to log your activity. We will keep track of how many acts of mission and justice we do as a congregation.

CREATION JUSTICE PATHWAYS IN NC, MARCH 25, 9am-2:30

Parkway United Church of Christ, 2151 Silas Creek Parkway, W-Salem
Marilynn Marsh-Robinson, Speaking Truth to Power: Environmental Justice in NC; Dr. Daniel Vermeer, Energy 2050: Understanding the Present Reality and Possible Futures of the US Energy System; Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler Making a Cleaner, Greener, Better World: Fusing Climate Change and Social Justice.

BOOK CLUB, *MARCH 20*

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Monday, March 20, at 11 am. (Please note the change of date.) At this time, the discussion of *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett will be lead by Karen Long. In April, we will return to our usual meeting date of the second Monday of the month. Therefore, on Monday, April 10, we will be discussing *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. Our discussion leader for this work is Faye Humphrey. We will continue to meet at SouthPark Christian Church at 11:00 AM. Please join us.

Congregational Feedback

We are always seeking to strengthen the worship experience at Holy Covenant. Can you help us by sharing your thoughts? Please tear off and add to the offering plate or pass along to our liturgist today, Gregg Walker.

Congregational Music

Really?

Fitting

Perfect

“O How I Need You”

“Us for Them”

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

“Down By the Riverside”

Scripture & Sermon

Really?

Fitting

Perfect

Over all Worship Experience

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:
Elder for February: Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838
Greeters: Judi Lord, Aida Marcial
Recyclers: Linn Finger
Ushers: Kim Cobb, Scotty Foster, Barry Holcomb, Sue Pascucci
Media: Brian Hankins,
Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Lynn Chavarria and family in the death of Karen Griffin

Carole Schupp and family in the death of Don Schupp

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Diane Garvey, Steve Garvey, Helen Lambert, Melissa Noll, Irene Mikkelson, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, Sara Hamrick (Beth Sharp), Penny Butler & Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Jay Patel (Karen Griffin), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson (Cynthia Simpson), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), David Stoimenoff & Jim Germann

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

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