



Silent Meditation

I have never decided for Christ once and for all, as is often demanded of us. I have decided again and again in specific terms for the discipleship of Christ when situations were serious and it was necessary.

~ Jurgen Moltmann

Christianity as a belief system requires nothing but acquiescence. Christianity as a way of life, as a path to follow, requires a second birth, the conquest of ego, and new eyes with which to see the world. It is no wonder that we have preferred to be saved.

~ Robin Meyers

In order to become myself I must cease to be what I always thought I wanted to be, and in order to find myself I must go out of myself, and in order to live, I have to die.

~ Thomas Merton

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 12, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

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.)*

12X12 Initiative

Lloyd Spencer

Opening Voluntary

“Arirang”

arr. Kathleen Blackwell-Plank

Kristin Andes, harp

*(This Korean folk song is on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible
Heritage of Humanity. Visit UNESCO online for more fascinating information.)*

* Call to Worship

Lisa Sherman

One: Come, all who need help.

**Many: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and
earth.**

One: Come, all who desire blessing.

**Many: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham and Sarah,
the God of the ages.**

One: Come, all who long for salvation.

**All: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God
to save the world.**

* 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 φ Sing Response ✕ Seating by Ushers*

1. There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy,
like the wide-ness of the sea;
there’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice,
which is more than lib-er-ty.
There’s no place where earth-ly sor-rows
are more felt than in God’s heaven;
there’s no place where earth-ly fail-ings
have such kind-ly judg-ment given.

2. For the love of God is broad-er
than the mea-sures of our minds;
and the heart of the E-ter-nal
is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
If our love were but more faith-ful,
we would glad-ly trust God’s word;
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing
for the good-ness of our God.

“You Alone Can Rescue”

**Who, oh God, could save themselves, their own soul could heal?
Our shame was deeper than the sea, Your grace is deeper still.**

*Chorus: You alone can rescue, You alone can save
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us, led us out of death
To You alone belongs the highest praise.*

**You, oh God, have made a way, the great divide You heal.
For when our hearts were far away, Your love went further still,
Yes, Your love goes further still. *Chorus***

Call to Confession *from Psalm 121* **Gregg Walker**
**“I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come? My help
comes from the Living God who made heaven and earth...The Living One,
our keeper.”**

Silent Prayer **Gregg Walker**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Keeper of us all, bring new life, where we are worn and tired; new
love, where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness, where we have
wounded, and the joy and freedom of Your Holy Spirit, where we are
the prisoners of our selves. God our Redeemer, we place in Your hands
the tangled web that is our lives. By Your relentless and patient grace
in Christ, forgive and remove all that is sinful, untwist that which is
tangled, free that which is knotted, mend that which is broken, and
bring balance and harmony into our experience.**

**The Lord’s Prayer (*feel free to use alternate “Our Father which art..”*)
Our God in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name.....**

Assurance of Pardon

Gregg Walker

One: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near me, I release anything I hold against you; I regret all I have done to harm you; I stand beside the wrong in my life and ask God's forgiveness.

Many: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near, we release anything we hold against one another; we regret all the harm we have done; we stand beside the wrong in our lives and ask God's forgiveness.

One: Jesus says to us, each one: "Go and sin no more, come and follow me."

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Gift of Music

"Tender Shepherd"

by Mark Charlap

Kristin Andes, harp

* Gospel Lesson

John 3: 1-16

Jeff Hughes, Gregg Walker

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’

Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

“Loving the World”

Nancy Ellett Allison

ϕ We fall down, we get up
We fall down, we get up
We fall down, we get up
And the saints are just the Sinners
Who fall down and get up.

Offertory Invitation

Gregg Walker

Offering Music

* Doxology 776

OLD HUNDREDTH

ϕ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Spirit, creatures here below.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;
Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Amen.

* Offertory Dedication

Gregg Walker

Called Congregational Meeting
Report from Worship Team
Loan Refinancing Proposal

Jeff Hughes

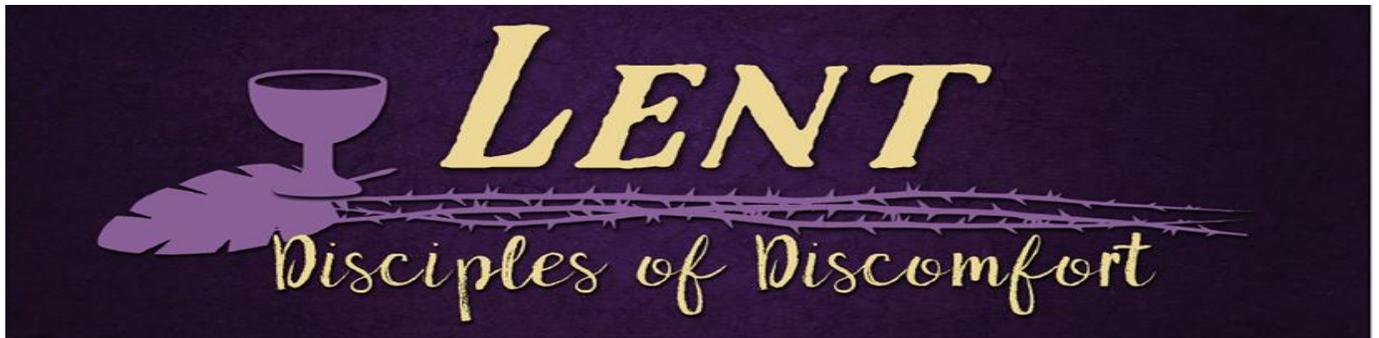
* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

φ **Guide my feet while I run this race;
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

Postlude

Jared Fischer



DIVING LESSONS, 2017 Lent Devotional Now Available

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

Parkway United Church of Christ, 2151 Silas Creek Parkway, W-Salem.
Please RSVP interest for carpooling to Diane Rogers,
diane@cpmcraftsman.com

BORN ON THIRD BASE? MARCH 26, 12:30 POTLUCK & DIALOGUE

Anne Van Newkirk, a leader with Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, will help us think together what it means to be a person of privilege. If we are to increase our understanding of racial equity, we have to understand the hidden ways some groups are advantaged over others. This will be an engaging time of discovery and discernment! Bring a dish to share and continue our Lenten Journey.

PRAYER AND FASTING OR MEATLESS MONDAY?

Changing our habits and fasting from a meal once a week (lunch each Thursday?) allows individuals to use the time which would have been devoted to eating to instead devote it to prayer and meditation. Going meatless once a week has health benefits and also helps reduce our carbon footprint. These focused changes of habit can also become a devotional practice.

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.



Take action w Missions & Justice! We need to be heard; we need to act! M&J wants to know how the people of Holy Covenant are responding to the many issues facing our people and our society today.

- Volunteering to help with Building and Grounds for our clean earth emphasis.
- Calling the offices of our National Senators and Representative to make our voices heard about issues. Richard Burr: 202-224-3154. Thom Tillis: 202-224-6342. Each of us needs to find the number for

our respective representatives in the House:
house.gov/representatives/find/.

➤ RITI OPPORTUNITIES, MARCH 12

A driver is needed for Sunday afternoon pick up. Contact Jean J.Raley-Dennis@gmail.com or Terry, TLDennis2@hotmail.com if you can help. Thank you for caring for others!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

On March 26, we will accept the One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering. Support this wonderful ministry that provides aid to health, education, refugee, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Please use the OGHS envelopes or note your check “One Great Hour of Sharing” on the memo line.

BOOK CLUB, *MARCH 20*

Monday, March 20, at 11 am discussion of *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett will be lead by Karen Long. Monday, April 10, *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly, led by Faye Humphrey. We will meet at SouthPark Christian Church at 11:00 AM. Please join us.

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

Elder for March: Jeff Edwards-Knight, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

Greeters: Marylou Iantosca, Shirley Moder

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Tom Magraw, John Maze

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Olivia Carney

Tabulators: Sally McLester, Kathi Smith

Refreshments: Southside Covenant Group

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Erica Echeverri (Melissa Noll), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kath Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Bill Funderburk, Sara Hamrick (Beth Sharp), Mike Hinson (Kathi Smith), 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), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Tommy Simpson, Cynthia Simpson, Christina Mary Smith (Kathi Smith), David Stoimenoff & Jim Germann, Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director

Mr. Steven Burlison, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mr. Gregg Walker, Ministry Intern

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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