



Silent Meditation

The Lap of God

She was shelling peas,
apron-covered knees
spread wide to catch
each pea/each pod

I, shaky, needy
wandered near

Her ancient swollen hands
pushed back the hair
that hid my face

She set down the pan and,
patting her knee,
said:

oh, child
come on up here
and let me have a look at you.

Her voice was safe and so was I
sitting in the lap of God.

~ Martha Popson

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

May 14, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Jesus, the man from Galilee, be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

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

Opening Voluntary

“Wonderful Words of Life”

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship *(from 1 John 4)*

Terrance Hayes

One: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

Many: **Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

One: God’s love was revealed among us in this way:

Many: **God sent Jesus into the world so that we might live as he lived. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.**

One: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God’s love is perfected in us.

Many: **By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, we have received God’s Spirit. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.**

One: There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

Many: **We love because God first loved us.**

One: The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

* Passing of the Peace

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

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

1. Im-mor-tal, in-vis-i-ble, God on-ly wise,
in light in-ac-ces-si-ble hid from our eyes,
Most bless-ed, most glo-rious, the An-cient of Days,
al-might-y, vic-to-rious, your great name we praise.

2. Un-rest-ing, un-hast-ing, and si-lent as light,
not want-ing, not wast-ing, but rul-ing in might;
Your jus-tice like moun-tains high soar-ing a-bove,
your clouds which are foun-tains of good-ness and love.

3. Your life is life-giv-ing—to both great and small;
in all life you're liv-ing, the true life of all;
We blos-som and flour-ish as leaves and as flowers,
then with-er and per-ish—but naught dims your powers.

4. So per-fect your glo-ry, so bril-liant your light,
your an-gels a-dore you, all veil-ing their sight;
All praise we now ren-der as your an-gels do:
in awe at the splen-dor of light hid-ing you.

"A New Hallelujah"

Can you hear, there's a new song
Breaking out from the children of freedom
Every race and every nation
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Let us sing love to the nations
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us
Make it known and make it famous
Sing it out, sing a new Hallelujah.

Chorus: Arise, let the church arise, Let Love reach to the other side.
Alive, come alive, let the song arise.

Everyone sings a new song
Reaching out with a new Hallelujah
Every son and every daughter
Everyone sing a new Hallelujah. (*Chorus*)

Children's Message & Offering

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

New Life Story

Barry Holcomb

Contemporary Word “Mother’s Day Proclamation, 1870”
by Julia Ward Howe

Laura Hankins

Arise then...women of this day!
Arise, all women who have hearts!
Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!
Say firmly:

“We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies, our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.”

From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: “Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.” Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace...each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God. In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality, may be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient and the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, and the great and general interests of peace.

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Steven Burleson

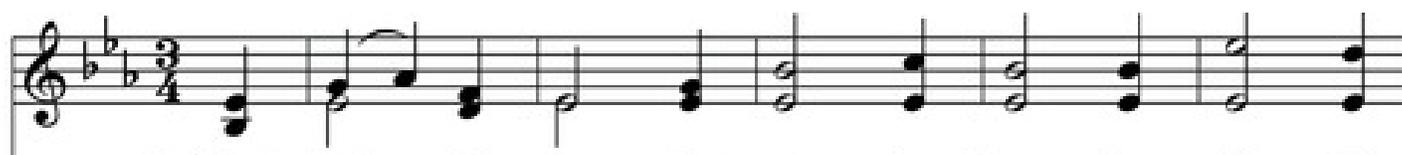
Gift of Music

“It Is Well With My Soul”
Morgan Rush

VILLE DU HAVRE

* Offering Response

ROCKINGHAM



Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an



offering far too small. Love so amazing,



so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

* Offertory Dedication

Steven Burleson

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling,
joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing,
all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion;
pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion,
en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it
in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
Let us all in you in-her-it,
let us find your prom-ised rest;
Take a-way our love of sin-ning;
Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
End of faith, as its be-gin-ning,
set our hearts at lib-er-ty.

3. Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er,
let us all your life re-ceive;
Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver,
ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
You we would be al-ways bless-ing,
love you as your an-gels love,
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing,
wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.

4. Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion;
pure and spot-less may we prove;
Let us see your great sal-va-tion
per-fect-ly re-stored in you;
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,
till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be
lost in won-der, love, and praise.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

Jared Fischer

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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.

12x12 SERVE. STAND UP. SHARE.

Take action with 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. Write your mission, drop it in the basket in the Gathering Room and M&J will track them as the year goes along.

- HCUCC's *Upper Room Ministry*-can you join us for a meaningful time of prayer, bible study or conversation, with our neighbors at Urban Ministry Center? If so, please contact Phil Kaveler, pwkaveler@yahoo.com for times and dates. Our next session is May 30-June 2.
- Support the Sunshine Fund- HCUCC's benevolence ministry to help members who are struggling with financial shortfalls. Please notate "Sunshine Fund" on your gift.
- Contact our US Senators and Representatives about healthcare, budget, etc. Richard Burr: 202-224-3154, Thom Tillis: 202-224-6342

HOLY COVENANT INVITES PROPOSALS FOR NEW MINISTRY

Do you know someone with a passion for a new ministry? *Would it succeed in south Charlotte?* Can you help us spread the word about available grant funding? The article below tells some of the story. The website gives full details. <http://www.unconventionalpilgrims.org/>.

MAY 21, ORDINATION TO MINISTRY OF CINDY COBLE

When Cindy Coble, was a student at Hood Theological Seminary, she became a member of the United Church of Christ through Holy Covenant. During that time she served briefly as our interim Minister of Youth and was actively engaged with the congregation. Cindy is returning to HC for her ordination this next Sunday as she has been hired as a prison chaplain.

Join us in celebrating this special moment in the life of a "daughter" of Holy Covenant!

MAY 28 CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

Annika Decker and Hannah Magraw are our two students who will be graduating from High School this year. Be with us to send them off with our blessings. More to come about their plans!

PLANT SALE TO BENEFIT GUATEMALA FUND

Did you miss out on Earth Day this year? You can still participate - AND help our missions effort at the same time. On **May 28** there will be a plant sale in the gathering room - with milkweed seedlings and seeds, as well as other plants. Simply take what you will plant - and make a donation. 100% of funds will help fund a Mission Trip in 2018.

JUNE 4 PENTECOST SUNDAY

GUEST PREACHER RABBI JUDITH SCHINDLER

Rabbi Judy Schindler is the Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the **Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice** which works to enrich Queens and the Charlotte community with Jewish educational and cultural opportunities for Jews and non-Jews alike. Join us for this Sunday as we celebrate the many ways God is known and worshipped.

SANDWICH MINISTRY, MAY 20, HARRIS CAMPUS AT 10AM

SOJOURNERS CLASS~

NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

The Sojourners recently began a video series entitled "How Jesus became God" presented by Professor of Religious Studies, Bart D. Ehrman from UNC Chapel Hill. Join us for a weekly viewing of the series at 9:45 in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome and no preparation is needed.

BOOK CLUB MONDAY

The book club will be meeting at 10:30 am on the second Monday of the month at SouthPark Christian Church, We hope the you can join us for great discussions and fellowship. Here is our schedule of dates, titles and discussion leaders:

12 June, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles discussion leader Sharon Landis

10 July, *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren discussion leader Diane Burleson

14 August, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood discussion leader Mary Ann Miklos

11 September, *A Stillness at Appomattox* by Bruce Catton discussion leader Jim Humphrey

YOGA, WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM

Contact David Smith at **DavidSmith02b@gmail.com** with any questions.

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

Elder for May: Kathleen Smith, kathleenie53@msn.com or 704-614-7674

Deacons for May: Lynn Chavarria, Sally Duffy

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

Greeters: Marylou Iantosca, Shirley Moder

Ushers: Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw, John Maze

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Jim Hong

Tabulators: Kathi Smith, Sally McLester

Refreshments: Martha Bomely, Joy Decker

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Jim Humphrey, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Alice Phelan, Jerry Rhyne, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reddy Powell, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Mary & Keith (Susan Bennett-Stiles), Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Bill Funderburk, Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), David McLelland (Joe McLelland), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), John Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Christina Mary Smith (Kathi Smith), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Myra Thompson (Robert Shepherd), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb)