



<https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/truth-commission/peoples-tent-revival/>

Silent Meditations

“Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up.”

“I love America more than any other country in this world,
and, exactly for this reason,
I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.”
-James Baldwin

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

May 28, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Steven Burleson

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

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship *(paraphrase from Psalm 19)*

One: The wonders of the universe testify to the awesome mystery we call God.

Many: The unfathomable numbers of lights in the night sky sing of the divine handiwork.

One: From those lights there comes no speech nor any sound that we can hear;

Many: Yet their voice goes out to the entire world and their message to the ends of the earth.

One: The truth that comes from God is like new life for the soul.

Many: The divine vision of how we are to live together is like light for the eyes.

One: May the words we speak and the silent, inner whisperings of our thoughts be acceptable to the Creator.

* 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. When morn-ing gilds the skies,
my heart a-wak-ing cries,
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
A-like at work and prayer,
one pur-pose I de-clare:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
2. New strength comes night or day
when from the heart we say,
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Let sin and e-vil fear,
when this sweet chant they hear:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
3. Dis-cor-dant hu-man-kind,
in this your con-cord find,
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth a-round
ring joy-ous with the sound:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
4. Be this, while life is mine,
my can-ti-cle di-vine,
may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Be this the e-ter-nal song,
through all the a-ges long:
may Je-sus Christ be praised!

“Instrument”

Where there is hatred Lord, let me sow your love,
Where there's injury, let forgiveness be enough.
Are we giving up, fighting the good fight?
Where there is despair, just a flicker in the flame
Could break the veil of night.

Refrain: Creator God and Son,
O, Holy Spirit, three in One,
I offer you myself, though I'm broken and spent
Let me be Your instrument.

May I never seek, to be consoled as to console,
May I understand, to be loved is to love, to be loved is to love.
(Refrain)

Let there be peace, pardoned in the pardoning,
Born again when we die, You have raised us to new life.

Children's Message & Offering

Steven Burleson

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

Ministry in Guatemala Report

Amy Hartman, Barry Holcomb

New Life Story

Sarah Sladek

Much of Western European history conditions us to see human differences in simplistic opposition to each other: dominant/ subordinate, good/ bad, up/ down, superior/ inferior. In a society where the good is defined in terms of profit rather than in terms of human need, there must always be some group of people who, through systematized oppression, can be made to feel surplus, to occupy the place of the dehumanized inferior. Within this society, that group is made up of Black and Third World people, working-class people, older people, and women.

“Racism, the belief in the inherent superiority of one race over all others and thereby the right to dominance. Sexism, the belief in the inherent superiority of one sex over the other and thereby the right to dominance. Ageism. Heterosexism. Elitism. Classism.”

It is a lifetime pursuit for each one of us to extract these distortions from our living at the same time as we recognize, reclaim, and define those differences upon which they are imposed. For we have all been raised in a society where those distortions were endemic within our living. Too often, we pour the energy needed for recognizing and exploring difference into pretending those differences are insurmountable barriers, or that they do not exist at all. This results in a voluntary isolation, or false and treacherous connections. Either way, we do not develop tools for using human difference as a springboard for creative change within our lives. We speak not of human difference, but of human deviance.”

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

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

Psalm

Psalm 68:1-10

Steven Burleson

Let God rise up, let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; lift up a song to God who rides upon the clouds--his name is the LORD-- be exultant before him. Mother-Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in God's holy habitation. God gives the desolate a home to live in; God leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, [Selah] the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

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

"A Moral Awakening"

Steven Burleson

Offertory Invitation

Susan Pascucci

Offering Music

“Come As You Are”

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken hearted, let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, oh sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

*Refrain: So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.*

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure (Refrain)

Come as you are, come as you are
Fall in Love's arms, come as you are

There's joy for the morning, oh my soul be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

* 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

Susan Pascucci

1. Lead on e-ter-nal Sov-ereign, we fol-low in your way;
loud rings your cry for jus-tice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayer-ful prep-a-ra-tion, your grace will make us strong,
to car-ry on the strug-gle to tri-umph o-ver wrong.

2. Lead on e-ter-nal Sov-ereign, we fol-low not with fear,
for in each hu-man con-flict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with glad-ness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your prom-ise that love will con-quer all.

3. Lead on e-ter-nal Sov-ereign, till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints to-geth-er will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your do-min-ion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each oth-er for all e-ter-ni-ty.

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.

UPDATE ON THE MORTGAGE PAY DOWN AND REFINANCING

The mortgage refinance agreement was signed this week! Thanks to the generosity and hard work of so many church members and friends, Holy Covenant now has a mortgage that will be paid off in 10 years with a lower interest rate and slightly reduced monthly payments!

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.

- Salisbury Gay Pride Festival on **June 24**; volunteers are needed for HCUCC's first time at this festival. Let's show the folks of Rowan County that we are welcoming to all and all are valued. Contact Joe Kiser for participation times, icscoobydoo@icloud.com
- Join in the HCUCC Earth Care Ministry. Contact Phil Kaveler for additional information, pwkaveler@yahoo.com
- and a ministry or mission of choice.

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/>.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF WAKAMI IN CHUK MUK

The Sinapi Foundation thanks you for your generous contributions which have helped incubate a new Wakami small business in the community of

Chuk Muk, Guatemala. Through your generosity we have given a total of \$15,690 to this good work!

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. Following worship, 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.

SOJOURNERS CLASS~

NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

Journey with us on Sunday, as we continue to explore a video series entitled "How Jesus became God" presented by Professor of Religious Studies, Bart D. Ehrman from UNC Chapel Hill. Everyone is welcome. No preparation is needed. We'll gather in the Conference Room at 9:45 AM.

BOOK CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

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: Suzanne Lamorey

Greeters: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Joe Kiser, Eileen Howe, Alice Phelan, Shakti Subramanian

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Tina Dickens

Refreshments: Debbie Davis

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

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Linda Burby, Mildred Edenfield (Donna Collins), Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), 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), Naomi Scheiperpeter, John Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Myra Thompson (Robert Shepherd), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb)

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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