



## Silent Meditation

“If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected--those, precisely, who need the law's protection most!--and listens to their testimony.”

-JAMES BALDWIN, *The Price of the Ticket*

“The greatest movement for social justice our country has ever known is the civil rights movement and it was totally rooted in a love ethic.”

-Bell Hooks

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SECOND SUNDAY IN PENTECOST**

June 18, 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 friendship pads so that all worshippers  
might have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer, Bill Tyler

\* Call to Worship

Carl Johnson

One: God of the prophets, call to us today,

**Many: Call us into your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

One: God of the poets, remind us again how much you love us,

**Many: Sing to us your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

One: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow you,

**Many: Teach us your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

One: God of all creation, help us to know your ways,

**All: We gather to hear your call, to sing your praise, to teach each other, to pray and worship as the people of God called to be your beloved community.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Carl Johnson

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*

\* Hymn

“Down By the Riverside”  
*Bill Tyler, horn*

SPIRITUAL

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, down by the riverside  
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside. (2x)  
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  
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside. (2x)  
I'm gonna study war no more.

Well, I'm gonna walk with my Jesus, down by the riverside  
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside. (2x)  
I'm gonna study war no more. *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.

*Chorus 1: 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, 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.

*Chorus 2: 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. *(Instrumental to Chorus 2)*

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.)*

\* Gospel Lesson

Luke 6:20-26

Karen Long

Then he 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 in 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.”

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

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

New Life Story

Karen Long

Gift in Song

“At Worship”

Robbie Furr, Karen Long

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

\* Gospel Lesson Luke 6:27-36 Steven Burleson

“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.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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 “Blessings and Woes, Friends and Foes” Steven Burleson

Offertory Invitation Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music Jared Fischer

\* Offering Response LASST UNS ERFREUEN

ϕ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\* Offertory Dedication Nancy Ellett Allison

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### \* Invitation to the Table

Steven Burleson

All: Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers from the four corners of the world. As today's sunlight inches across land and sea, Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family. All are invited and all are welcome to share in Christ's love and to confess together our faith.

### \* United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

*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

Jared Fischer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Steven Burleson

**We give thanks to you our God for sustaining us for the journey;  
For bringing love, life, health and holiness,  
For bringing us closer to you,  
For knowing you are with us in our waiting;  
You are with us in our living. Amen.**

\* Benediction

Steven Burleson

\* 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

**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  
3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510  
www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810**

## 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.

### NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to get more involved, learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, and join our church, we encourage you to attend our Inquirer's Classes. We will welcome new members July 16.

**June 25, 9:30 AM: History of UCC & Holy Covenant**

**July 9, Luncheon: Organization & Opportunities for Involvement**

Childcare is available for all age children. If you are interested in attending, please contact Debbie Davis, [debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com](mailto:debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com).

### 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**. 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](mailto:icscoobydoo@icloud.com)
- Join in the HCUCC Earth Care Ministry. Contact Phil Kaveler for additional information, [pwkaveler@yahoo.com](mailto:pwkaveler@yahoo.com)
- A call to your member of the General Assembly stating your opposition to H.B. 746 would be an important advocacy step on behalf of North Carolinians. The Council's **Gun Violence Prevention** page offers a variety of denominational statements and liturgical resources that you might share to help your elected leaders appreciate your concern from a faith perspective.

## **BOOK CLUB MONDAY**

The book club will be meeting at 10:30 a.m. on the second Monday of the month at SouthPark Christian Church. We hope you can join us for great discussions and fellowship. July 10, *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren, discussion leader Diane Burleson.

## **7TH ANNUAL SALISBURY PRIDE FESTIVAL, JUNE 24, 11AM -5PM**

Many thanks to the volunteers who have signed up to staff HCUCC's first ever booth for this event! All are welcome to drop by and show your support! [www.salisburypride.com](http://www.salisburypride.com)

## **2017 CHARLOTTE PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE, AUGUST 26-27**

Save the date! HCUCC will have a booth again this year and your participation will be needed. Let's share the word that Holy Covenant and the UCC welcomes all! Contact Joe Kiser, [icscoobydoo@icloud.com](mailto:icscoobydoo@icloud.com) for more information. [www.charlottepride.org](http://www.charlottepride.org)

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

Elder for June: Jeff Hughes, [jeffhugh@msn.com](mailto:jeffhugh@msn.com) or 704-577-3068

Deacons for June: Martha Bomely, James Hong

Recyclers: Lynn Chavarria

Greeters: Donna Collins, Laura Hankins

Ushers: Barry Holcomb, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Jana Harrison, Jeff Hughes

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Jim Humphrey, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Alice Phelan, Yami Senturias, Isabelle Reedy 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), Bill Funderburk, Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), David McLelland (Joe McLelland), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Myra Thompson (Robert Shepherd), Virginia Tomlinson (Tommy Tomlinson & Alix Felsing), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb)

*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.*