



## love of children ~ creation ~ neighbor

### Silent Meditation

The soul is made of love and must ever strive to return to love. Therefore, it can never find rest nor happiness in other things. It must lose itself in love. By its very nature, it must seek God, who is love.

~ Mechthild of Magdeburg

Power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to own life than to love life.

~ Henri J. M. Nouwen

Love is a practice, not a belief and certainly not just a feeling. Love is a set of habits learned over a lifetime.

~Roy Howard

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST  
3 Great Loves: Love of Children

September 24, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

David Gilliland

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 “Lord, Listen to Your Children”  
*arr. Jack Schrader*

David Gilliland

\* Call to Worship *(adapted from Colossians 3)*

Eric Bergstrom

One: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, we clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

**Many: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, we are patient and forgiving with one another.**

One: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, we clothe ourselves with a love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**Many: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, we welcome the peace of Christ into our hearts.**

One: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, with gratitude in our hearts, we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

**All: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, we live in the light of Jesus, giving thanks to God for all good gifts.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Eric Bergstrom

One: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, 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*

\* Hymn

“O Holy One, We Sing Your Praise” EIN’ FESTE BURG  
*Jann Aldredge-Clanton, lyrics, Martin Luther, music*

O Holy One, we sing Your praise; we lift our songs of gladness;  
For You with hope our spirits raise; You comfort us in sadness.  
From youth to age we see Your acts that set us free;  
When all our strength has left, You lift us from the depths;  
We praise Your grace and goodness.

Your tender power we proclaim with every generation;  
O Holy One, Your gifts we claim with joy and celebration.  
Your wondrous deeds we sing; our gratitude we bring;  
Your loving care revives and keeps our hope alive;  
We give You adoration.

O Holy One, Your faithfulness, no power on earth can sever;  
We celebrate Your righteousness that sparks our best endeavor.  
The highest heavens tell Your love that never fails;  
Your blessings all day long inspire our greatest songs;  
We sing Your praise forever.

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.)*

Gift in Song

“New Songs of Gladness”  
*Dvorák’s biblical songs for special music*  
*David Gilliland, piano, Laura Valles, vocals*

Prayers of the People

Nancy Ellett Allison

We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,  
To notions of our day and place, crude, partial and confined;  
No, let a new and better hope with-in our hearts be stirred;  
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

Who dares to bind to one's own sense the oracles of heaven,  
For all the nations, tongues, and climes and all the ages given?  
That universe, how much unknown! that ocean unexplored!  
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove:  
Enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;  
And help us all to seek your will with wiser powers conferred:  
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

Epistle Lesson

Colossians 3:16-4:6

Cheri Dennis

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only while being watched and in order to please them, but wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality. Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, for you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

**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

“All in the Family”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Cheri Dennis

Offering Music

“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands”  
*arr. Robert Thygerson*

David Gilliland

- \* Offering Response OLD HUNDREDTH
- φ Praise God who gives all blessings birth;  
Praise God all creatures on the earth;  
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free;  
One holy God in persons three. Amen.
- \* Offertory Dedication Cheri Dennis
- \* Hymn 82 “Go My Children, with My Blessing” AR HYD Y NOS
1. Go, my chil-dren, with my blessing, nev-er a-lone;  
Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;  
In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er  
I have made you mine for-ev-er,  
Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own.
  2. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me;  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.  
Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you,  
here with ten-der corn-fort stilled you;  
Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.
- \* Benediction Nancy Ellett Allison
- \* 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 “Come Thou Font” David Gilliland  
*arr. John Purifoy*

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

## 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 Class:

**October 8, Post Worship Luncheon** hosted by Elders and Deacons  
Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

We will welcome new members on October 15. Childcare is available for all age children during this time and we invite you to join us! Please contact Debbie Davis, [debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com](mailto:debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com), if you are interested in attending or have any questions.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1

Rev. Susan Bennett Stiles and Martha Bomely will be leading a brief time of singing for our children each Sunday from noon - 12:15. The goal is to help children enjoy singing songs of faith - not to become a full-fledged choir. We hope your child can stay for that brief amount of time and learn some songs together. Questions? Call Susan at 989-860-5876.

### 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.

- Volunteer at your local school: CMS- [www.cms.k12.nc.us](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us) or Cabarrus- [www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us](http://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us) Under "Quick Links" or "Useful Links" find "Volunteer" a webpage that may offer examples of

volunteer activities, a phone number and email address for the person who can answer their questions, and get you started.

- Support Holy Covenant's benevolence fund, which helps members in need of assistance during times of crisis. Notate your check "Sunshine Fund".
- Volunteer at the Upper Room Ministry at Urban Ministry Center. Contact **Phil Kaveler**, coordinator for ways you can help.

### **WEDNESDAY YOGA**

Join David Smith and others for a relaxing yoga session in the Gathering Room. No experience necessary. Facebook: HCUCC Yoga4all. \*Yoga group takes a break on October 4th and 11th.

### **THE BOOK CLUB MOVES TO SECOND WEDNESDAYS**

The book club has changed its meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month. Join us at 10:30 am, **SouthPark Christian Church** for the following discussions:

October 11-

*The Leavers* by Lisa Ko discussion leader Betty Little

November 15-

*A Full Life* by Jimmy Carter discussion leader Barbara Schneller

December 13-

*A Short History of a Small Place* by T.R. Pearson discussion leader Sharon Landis

### **CROP HUNGER WALK OCTOBER 14**

All walkers are invited to join the largest hunger walk in the USA. The walk on Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m. is 3.6 miles which is how far many people have to walk to get food and clean water for their family. 25% of all donations will stay in Mecklenburg Co. and be divided between 3 agencies. CWS is providing assistance to Texas residents affected by Harvey. All interested in walking with the church group, please contact Tina Dickens at church or email [taichitina@gmail.com](mailto:taichitina@gmail.com). For more information visit Church World Service at [cwsglobal.org](http://cwsglobal.org).

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

Elder for September:

Jeff Hughes, jeffhugh@msn.com or 704-577-3068

Deacons for September: Joe Behr-Stenzel

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

Greeters: Anne Hayes, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Eileen Howe, Michael Sladek, Shakti Subramanian

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Phyllis Johnson, Judi Lord

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, David Cable, Donna Collins, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed & Beth Sharp, Caroline Utz

### **Friends & Family Members**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Nancy Knapp (Suzanne Hopkins), Beth Poyer Meyer, Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto & Family (Aida Marcial), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Cindy Wagner (Donna Collins), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins)

*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.*

**Holy Covenant United Church of Christ**

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

**Ms. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern**

**Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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