



**love of children ~ creation ~ neighbor**

### *Silent Meditation*

We cannot really love anybody with whom we never laugh.

~Agnes Repplier

The way we protect ourselves from loss may be the way in which we distance ourselves from life...

We burn out not because we don't care but because we don't grieve.

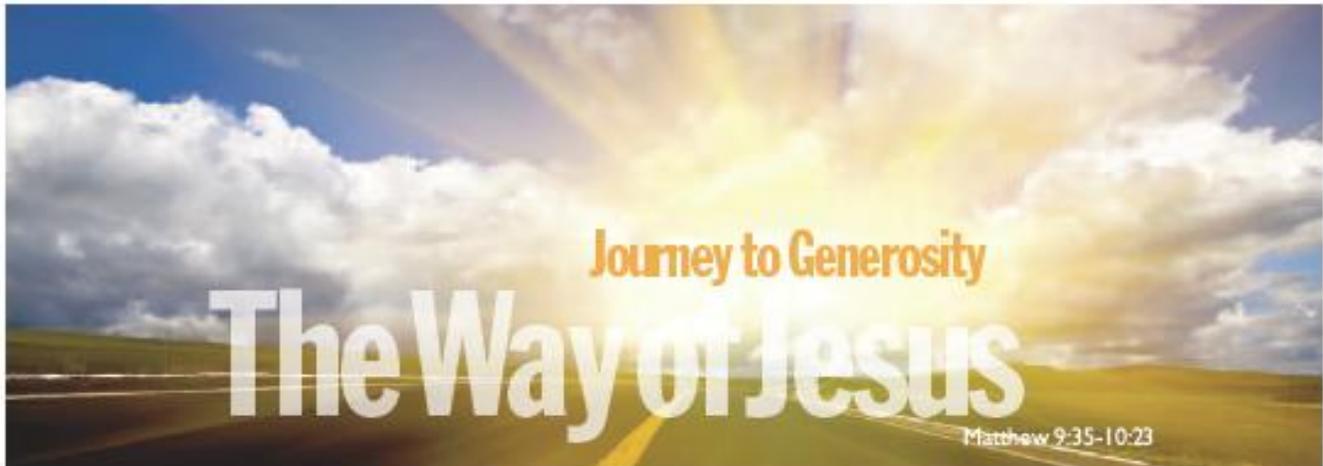
We burn out because we've allowed our hearts to become so filled with loss that we have no room left to care.

~ Naomi Remen

In the midst of our dark tunnel of difficulties, depression or suffering, Christ is there: "My God, my God!"

If he could cry that, so can we. If he could go through the barriers, the sound effects of suffering, and come out on the other side with God, so can we.

~Brian Hession



## STEWARDSHIP IS LOVING GOD AND LOVING NEIGHBOR

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”* Matthew 22: 34-46

**G**od gives us such great gifts. How do we respond? According to Christian theology, we become stewards. A steward is a person who manages resources. As stewards of God, we manage or try to manage our resources so that they serve God’s purposes to make the church and the world more like the communities God wants them to be.

Our text for today gives as short and memorable an understanding of the purpose of stewardship as you will find in the Bible. Given what God is doing to help increase the presence of love, peace, justice, and abundance in the world, how should we respond? The Jesus of Matthew says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment and the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

What is stewardship? Loving God and loving neighbor. We have an opportunity to make commitments — both material and symbolic — to help this congregation love God and love neighbor in the days, weeks, months, and year ahead. Let’s be generous!

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST**  
**3 Great Loves: Love of Neighbor**

October 22, 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

\* Call to Worship

Micheal Hall

One: Love has brought us here today.

Not our love for God but God's steadfast love for us:

Many: **The love of the Holy for the flawed.**

**The love of the Healer for the diseased.**

**The love of the Reconciler for the alienated.**

One: Love has brought us here today.

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

One: Come God of love and hope, have mercy on us, make us clean.

Many: **Remind us of the faith which makes us whole, today and  
always. Lead us in hope toward all that lies ahead.**

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

\* Passing of the Peace

Micheal Hall

One: We are renewed by the love of God and the love of our sisters and brothers in Christ. So 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.

\* Hymn 175

“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come”

GERMANY

O Christ, the healer, we have come  
To pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored,  
When reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures  
Our bodies clamor to be freed;  
Yet in our hearts we would confess  
That wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health,  
We diagnose the world's disease;  
Our common life declares our ills:  
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
In your community may find  
The wholeness that, enriching us,  
Shall reach the whole of humankind.

**“Rising Sun”**

*written by P. Mabury, D. Leonard, K. Lee, & L. Jordan*

Lift your hearts, ye broken  
Sing oh sing, ye weary  
Your love has made us children of God  
We lift high Your glory  
Shown throughout our stories  
We praise You as Your children, oh God

*Chorus:*      Our Great Redeemer, Glorious Savior  
Your love is brighter than the rising sun  
Light of the morning, You shine forever  
Your love is brighter than the rising sun  
Your love is brighter than the rising sun

Praise God’s love forever, speak it loud and clear now  
Your love has made us children of God    *(Chorus, Instrumental)*

Hallelujah God above all  
Simply to love is the greatest praise  
Hallelujah now and always  
Forever we lift your name in praise  
Hallelujah love will reign  
Simply to love is the greatest praise    *(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.)*

My Journey of Faith

Yasmin Senturias

Gift of Music

“Healing”

by Deniece Williams

*Jared Fischer, piano; Yasmin Senturias, soprano*

Now that we have gotten through / One more fall  
I can just admit I've got it all / Cause I do  
Cause I've got you / We've crossed these battle lines to many times  
It passes through the heart / But it never leaves a mark

*Chorus:* Cause Your love just keeps on healing me  
No matter how I bruise / If I just trust You  
Your love just keeps on healing me / One more clue  
One more chance that wasn't there before / In your arms  
No pain can harm the way I'm feeling  
Lord I know that Your love is healing

I've kicked around those lines in my head  
But I've never listened to the words that You said  
See where its lead / Well I know I have it now  
Cause You showed me how / And all I had to do  
Was just to keep my eyes on You (*Chorus*)

Prayers of the People

Cheri Dennis

Hymn

“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.

Journey of Generosity

Diane Neese

\* Gospel Lessons

Matthew 22:34-40

Cheri Dennis

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "You shall love the Living One your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

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 Puts Us on Our Knees"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Invitation

Cheri Dennis

Offering Music

\* 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 498

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

CHEREPONI

*Refrain:* Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Knelt at the feet of his friends,  
silently washing their feet, Jesu,  
you acted as servant to them. *Refrain:*
2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor,  
var-ied in col-or and race,  
neigh-bors are near and far a-way. *Refrain:*
3. These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neigh-bors to us and you. *Refrain:*
4. Lov-ing puts us on our knees,  
show-ing our faith by our deeds,  
serv-ing the neigh-bors we have from you. *Refrain:*
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
si-lent-ly wash-ing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. *Refrain:*

\* 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

Jared Fischer

## 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.

### JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY

*Thank you for your generosity to Holy Covenant!*

As you share your time and talents through church and your service elsewhere, you strengthen the fabric of community. As you support Holy Covenant financially, you build our collective capacity to make a difference in the world. If you have already pledged, thank you for your generosity. If you have not and are able to do so, **drop your pledge card** in the offering plate. We are presently at 59% of goal for our General (Operating) Fund and 87% of goal for our Building Fund.



### CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY

Many in our congregation, many in your personal circles, have dealt with the pain of a Cancer diagnosis. Early detection makes a great difference in treatment. Find out more at

<https://www.cancer.org/healthy/find-cancer-early.html>.

Our hospitality will focus on this issue during our fellowship time.

### ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 19

Our 2017 Annual Meeting is our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with the entire congregation. In order to conduct the business of the church we need a quorum - and that means we need our members present! If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please contact Consistory President Jeff Hughes. **POTLUCK FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETING** Bring your favorite recipe from our Cookbook!

## **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.

- Attend the Solar Prayer Vigil, October 24, 4 pm at Duke Energy Headquarters, 550 w. Tryon Street, Charlotte
- Support the UNCC students with gently used professional clothing for interviews! Food items (especially international fare) and clothing can be dropped in the basket in the gathering room. **Jimal Niner Student Pantry** expanded their outreach to UNCC students

## **TAKE YOUR CHURCH TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF CREATION CARE**

**Friday, November 3, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Parkway UCC/ Winston-Salem** Please join the Creation Justice Network and Meighan Pritchard, the national UCC's Curriculum Director and former Environmental Justice Minister, for the seminar. Meighan will guide us in how to take our advocacy for environmental justice, to the next level within our congregations.

## **SAVE THE DATE! ROOM IN THE INN**

December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11

There are many ways in which to participate in this ministry that directly assists our neighbors. Look for the signup sheets in the gathering room.

## **SOJOURNERS CLASS~NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING**

We continue discussion of *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy*. On the last Sunday of each month we view a video series *How Jesus Became God* during our regular Sunday School time, 9:45-10:45. All are welcome and no preparation is necessary.

## **WEDNESDAY YOGA**

Please join David Smith and friends, Wednesdays at 7:30 pm for yoga, fun and fellowship on October 25th. No experience necessary. Facebook: HCUCC Yoga4all.

UCC's

Disaster

Ministries:

[http://www.ucc.org/donate\\_to\\_disaster\\_relief](http://www.ucc.org/donate_to_disaster_relief).

### **GRATITUDE FOR SUPPORT**

HCUCC member Aida Marcial, and The Puerto Rico Cultural Society of Charlotte sends a big thank you to all at HCUCC who supported the people of Puerto Rico following the hurricane. The residents of the island are faced with long term challenges to overcome. Donations of as little as \$1 are being accepted partnered with Walmart through <https://give.miamifoundation.org/Walmart>.

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

Elder for October: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@aol.com or 704-618-2750

Deacons for October: Martha Bomely, Sally Duffy

Recyclers: Suzanne Lamorey

Greeters: Suzanne Lamorey, Shirley Moder

Ushers: Eileen Howe, Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis

Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Hospitality

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

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

### **Friends & Family Members**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), 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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