



Silent Meditation

You are Christian only when you believe you have a role to play in the realization of the new kingdom, and when you urge everyone you meet with holy unrest to make haste so that the promise might soon be fulfilled. So long as you live as a Christian you keep looking for a new order, a new structure, a new life.

~ Henri Nouwen

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANNUAL MEETING**

November 19, 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

Long Range Planning

Renee Brown

*** Call to Worship**

Renee Brown

One: Let us gather within the covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another.

Many: Let us gather to remember our baptism into Christ by which we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.

One: Let us gather as God's church for worship, for fellowship, for service, for mission, for witness, and for our nurture and renewal as disciples of Christ.

Many: Let us gather, transcending all barriers within the human family, to receive one another's gifts of ministry and reconciliation.

One: Let us gather in love so that God's spirit shines through all.

Many: As people of God, we gather in worship and celebration of God's work through this community of faith.

*** Passing of the Peace**

Renee Brown

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*

1. The church’s one foun-da-tion
is Je-sus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ’s new cre-a-tion;
by wa-ter and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with pre-cious blood Christ bought us
for all e-ter-ni-ty.

2. E-lect from ev-ery na-tion,
yet one o’er all the earth,
one char-ter of sal-va-tion,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name to-geth-er bless-ing,
one ho-ly food we share,
to one hope we are press-ing,
at one in work and prayer.

3. ’Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion,
and tu-mult of our war,
we wait the con-sum-ma-tion
of peace for-ev-er-more;
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious,
our long-ing eyes are blessed,
and the great church vic-to-rious
shall be the church at rest.

4. Yet we on earth have un-ion
with God, the Three-in-One,
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion
with those whose rest is won.
O hap-py ones and ho-ly!
God, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and low-ly,
may live e-ter-nal-ly.

Children's Offering & Message Suzanne Lamorey & Nancy Ellett Allison
"Room In The Inn"

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

Report of Abundance (Community Garden, B&G)

Joe McClelland

Music & Worship Gratitude

Gift of Music

“Swimming to the Other Side”

words & music by Pat Humphries

Lisa Cloninger, Kathi Smith, vocals; Holy Covenant Music Cooperative

We are living 'neath the great Big Dipper, we are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in the stream together, some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on, cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever, we're all swimming to the other side

I am alone and I am searching, hungering for answers in my time
I am balanced at the brink of wisdom, I'm impatient to receive a sign
I move forward with my senses open, imperfection it will be my crime
In humility I will listen, we're all swimming to the other side
We are living...

On this journey of thoughts and feelings, binding intuition: my head, my heart
I am gathering the tools together, I'm preparing to do my part
All of those who have come before me band together to be my guide
Loving lessons that I will follow, we're all swimming to the other side
We are living...

When we get there we'll discover all of the gifts we've been given to share
Have been with us since life's beginning and we never noticed they were there
We can balance at the brink of wisdom, never recognizing that we've arrived
Loving spirits will live together, we're all swimming to the other side
We are living...

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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 & Pastor's Report "A Risky Faith" Nancy Ellett Allison

So. Charlotte Ministry & Grant Recipients Jana Harrison, Cheri Lovell

Stewardship, Neighbors in Need & Offertory Invitation Martha Bomely

Offering Music Jared Fischer

* Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

ϕ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Spirit, creatures here below.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;
Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Amen.**

* Offertory Dedication Martha Bomely

Hospitality Micheal Hall

1. In the midst of new di-men-sions,
in the face of chang-ing ways,
Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples
wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?

Refrain:

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar,
lead-ing where the ea-gles soar,
We your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney
now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er-more.

2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple,
war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es?
Who will light the flame of care?

Refrain:

3. As we stand a world di-vid-ed
by our own self-see-king schemes,
Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage,
might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.

Refrain:

4. We are man and we are wom-an,
all per-sua-sions, old and young,
Each a gift in your cre-a-tion,
each a love song to be sung.

Refrain:

5. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions
cause us to with-draw in pain,
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it
res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain:

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order	Consistory President, Jeff Hughes
Establishment of Quorum	
Approval of Minutes	
President's Report	
Nominations for Consistory Class of 2020	
Personnel	
Missions & Justice	
Sanctuary Sound System Report	
Endowment Fund Report	
Treasurer's Report & Proposed Budget for 2018	
New Business	
Acknowledgement of Committees	
Adjourn for Lunch	Thank You, Hospitality Team!
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.

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 19

Our 2017 Annual Meeting is our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with the entire congregation. Please join us for a Potluck luncheon today. Cookbooks will be available to purchase with proceeds to benefit Guatemala Missions.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING, NOVEMBER 26

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.



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.

- Support the HCUCC Benevolence fund that assist members in times of need. Notate your offering "Sunshine Fund"
- Contact your local Senators and Representatives about Tax Reform.
<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

SOJOURNERS CLASS -

NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING

The Sojourners we will meet next Sunday when we'll view another video in the Bart Ehrman series, *How Jesus Became God*. The following Sunday we'll resume discussion of *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy* by John Shelby Spong. We begin at 9:45 and no preparation is needed. All are welcome.

SANDWICH MINISTRY - CHANGE IN SCHEDULE

The sandwich ministry will take a break while our sandwich building coordinator, Linn Finger, recovers from shoulder surgery. Watch for announcements early January in hopes to return to our normal schedule.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE INSTALLATION OF TRICIA GARDNER LYTLE!

Our UCC clergy Member, Tricia Lytle will be installed as Associate Pastor this Sunday afternoon at 4:00 PM at the Unity Presbyterian Church in Denver, NC.

JOIN THE HOLY COVENANT CHANCEL CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC!

Your voice is needed during this Advent season! We are planning some great choral music for our Lessons and Carols service on December 17; all voice types and especially need male voices. Choir rehearsals for the season will begin TODAY following the potluck.

HCUCS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, DECEMBER 2 & 3

Saturday, December 2, 4-7 PM--Wine and cheese preview/sale party

Sunday, December 3, sales following worship

Twenty percent of sales will benefit the Guatemala Missions Fund. Contact Kim Tyler (yhr762@yahoo.com) or Kay Smith (HappyArtByKay@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in this fun event!

DECK THE HALLS & DECORATING, DECEMBER 2, 4-6:30 PM

Join us in shopping at the bazaar and decorating the sanctuary for the first Sunday in Advent.

FREE CHILDCARE & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2, 3-6:30 PM

Children's Choir, crafts and activities will be available from 3-6:30 pm. Parents: We will have sufficient infant and childcare activities for you to take time for yourself. Make this a part of your holiday planning!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS NOW AVAILABLE

"Watch" is the title of the new UCC Writers Group Advent devotional booklets. A challenging, inspiring, comforting word of hope is offered for each day of Advent. Pick up your copy now. One per family please.

ADVENT HOPE WORSHIP CELEBRATION, DECEMBER 3

Sunday, December 3 will mark the first day of the new Christian year as we light the Candle of Hope and lean into this new year of life.



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

Elder for November: jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838

Deacons for November: James Hong, Cheryl Milam

Recyclers: Linn Finger

Greeters: Anne Hayes, Judi Lord

Ushers: Barry Holcomb, Susan Pascucci, Suzanne Lamorey

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Hospitality/PotLuck Luncheon

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

Allen Abee (Gail Bumgardner), Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Sabrina McKnight (Deborah Winston), 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)

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

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Interim Minister for Church & Family Life

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