



Silent Meditation

We thank you for the spiritual power which gives us birth. You have given us the courage to change our minds, to open our hearts to those we despised, and to discover that we can disagree without being enemies. We are not winners and losers but citizens who push and pull together to move the nation forward.

We thank you for the good news that you will always be with us and will always overcome: that love will conquer hatred; that tolerance will conquer antagonism; that cooperation will conquer conflict; that your holy spirit can empower our spirits; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*South African National Service of Thanksgiving,
May 1994*

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST
REIGN OF CHRIST ~ THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 26, 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

(from Psalm 100)

Renee Brown

One: Make a joyful noise to the Living God all the earth.

Many: **Worship our God with gladness; come into God's presence
with singing.**

One: Know that the Living One is God.

Many: **It is God who created us, and we are God's beloved people.**

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with
praise.

Many: **Give thanks to God, bless God's name.**

One: For the Living One is good;

Many: **God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness
abounds to all generations.**

Passing of the Peace

Renee Brown

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*

Come, O thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in
As the winter storms begin;
God our Maker does provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God’s own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field,
All the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply,
Ripened `neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand
Scatters o’er the smiling land,
All that liberal autumn pours
From its rich o’erflowing stores.

These to you, our God, we owe,
Source from whom all blessings flow;
And for these our songs we raise,
Grateful vows and solemn praise,
Come, then, thankful people come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God’s own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

Children’s Offering & Message

Barbara Thomas

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

Blessing of the Mayflower Christians

Nancy Ellett Allison

(by Rev. John Robinson)

“I charge you before God...that you follow me no further than you have seen me follow the Lord Jesus Christ. If God reveals anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth by my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word. For my part, I cannot sufficiently bewail the condition of those reformed churches which...will go, at present, no further than the instruments of their reformation. The Lutherans cannot be drawn to go beyond what Luther saw...and the Calvinists, you see, stick fast where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things. This is a misery much to be lamented...”

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

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

* Hymn 316

“We Limit Not the Truth of God”

ELLACOMBE

1. 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 froth from your Word.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Salem 1636 Covenant

All: We Covenant with the Lord and one with another; and doe bynd ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in all his waies, according as he is pleased to reveale himself unto us in his Blessed word of truth.

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-19
(Common English Bible)

Nancy Ellett Allison

Since I heard about your faith and your love for all of God's people, this is the reason I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers.

Epistle Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Nancy Ellett Allison

Brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those who are working with you, leading you and instructing you. Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. Brothers and sisters, I urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure no one pays wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Don't suppress the spirit. Don't brush off spirit inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and examine what is good. Avoid every kind of evil. Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him and may your spirit, soul and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming. The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.

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

"Give Thanks...for everything?"

Barbara Thomas

A Litany of Thanksgiving
(Adapted From Litany of Thanksgiving by Howard Thurman
in 'Meditations of the Heart')

One: Today, I make my Sacrament of Thanksgiving. I begin with the simple things of my days:

Many: Fresh air to breathe, Cool water to drink, the taste of food, the comforts of home. For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

One: I bring to mind all the warmth of humankind that I have known:

Many: My mother's arms, the strength of my father. The playmates of my childhood, The excitement of laughter and the twinkle in the eye with its reminder that life is good. For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day

One: I finger one by one the messages of hope that awaited me at the crossroads:

Many: The smile of approval from those who held in their hands the reins of my security; The tightening of the grip in a simple handshake when I feared the step before me in darkness; For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

One: I pass before me the main springs of my heritage: The countless generations who lived before me, without whom my own life would have no meaning;

Many: The seers who saw visions and dreamed dreams; The prophets who sensed a truth greater than the mind could grasp, the pilgrims who set their sails for lands beyond all horizons, The saviors whose blood was shed with a recklessness that only a dream Could inspire and God could command. For all this I make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

One: The big hope that never quite deserts me, that I and my kind will study war no more, that love and tenderness and all the inner graces of Almighty affection will cover the life of the children of God as the waters cover the sea.

Many: All these and more, I make as my sacrament of Thanksgiving to Thee, Our God, in humbleness of mind and simplicity of heart.

Offertory Invitation

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offering Music

* Doxology “Now Thank We All Our God” NUN DANKET

ϕ Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices
Who wondrous things hath wrought, who through the world rejoices
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God the Maker now be given,
To Christ and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

* Offertory Dedication

Nancy Ellett Allison

**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.

* Hymn of Thanksgiving

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving,
To God the creator, triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.

Great laws, God enforces, the stars in their courses
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Christ divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a Song let us raise.

Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

This is the day, (*Echo*) This is the day,
That the Lord has made, That the Lord has made.
I will rejoice, I will rejoice
And be glad in it, And be glad in it!

This is the day, that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day; this is the day that the Lord has made!

I will enter his courts with thanksgiving in my heart
Enter his courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
He has made me glad, he has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad

* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

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.

JOIN THE HOLY COVENANT CHANCEL CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC!

Choir rehearsals for the season will be on Sundays, 12:30-2:30.

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. For more information, contact Jared Fischer at music@holycovenantucc.org.

HCUCC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, DECEMBER 2 & 3

Saturday, December 2, 4-7 PM--Wine and cheese preview/sale party AND Sunday, December 3, following worship--Twenty percent of sales will benefit the Guatemala Missions Fund.

DECK THE HALLS & DECORATING, DECEMBER 2, 4-7 PM

Join us in shopping at the bazaar and then decorating the sanctuary for the first Sunday in Advent. Children's Christmas art for take home and activities will be available from 4-6:30 pm. Parents: We will have sufficient childcare and activities for you to take time for yourself. Make this a part of your holiday planning!

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 will meet on Sunday, Nov. 26, 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 (Chapters 26, 27, & 28). As usual, 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.

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: Suzanne Lamorey

Greeters: Donna Collins, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Eileen Howe, Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek

Media: Brian Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis

Refreshments: Southside Covenant Group

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, David Cable, Donna Collins, Linn Finger, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Phil Kaveler, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed 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), Beth Poyer Meyer, Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Naomi Scheiperpeter, 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

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810