



Silent Meditation

"Loose-Leaf"

When your options are either
to revise your beliefs
or to reject a person,
look again.

Any formula for living
that is too cramped
for the human situation
cries for rethinking.

Hardcover catechisms
are a contradiction
to our loose-leaf lives.

~ Gerhard Frost

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2018

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 information pads so that all worshippers
might have the opportunity to sign them.)*

* Passing of the Peace

Nancy Ellett Allison

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

(from Psalm 111)

Micah Baldonado

One: By this I have known the presence of the Holy One:

Many: **in the rising of the sun, in the smile of another's face,**

One: in the touch of a hand or the sound of a laugh,

Many: **in the scent of a flower holding the promise of spring.**

One: By this I have known the power of the Mighty One:

Many: **in the healing of hurts, in the forgiveness of sin,**

One: in the giving of gifts beyond all expectation,

Many: **in the shower of love that comes from the Living Christ.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord with all of our heart!

Many: **Let us worship our God, whose presence and power endures
forever!**

* Prayer of Invocation (*Unison*)

Micah Baldonado

Almighty and most merciful God, we give thanks that you know us and love us. Help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, grow deeper, wider, and fuller in our knowledge and understanding of your ways. Help us, through the bestowal of your divine Wisdom, bring others closer to you and to your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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

Lift up your hearts! We lift them, up to you
For in your presence it is right to do;
Lift up your hearts! In joy to gather laud,
We lift them up, we lift them to God.

Above the level of the former years,
The mire of sin, the weight of guilty fears,
The mist of doubt, the blight of loves decay,
O God of life, lift all our hearts today!

Lift every gift that God to us has given;
Low lies the best till blessed by God in heaven;
Low lie the bounding heart, the teeming brain,
Till, once more, they return to God again.

Then, as the trumpet call, in after years,
Lift up your hearts! rings pealing in our ears,
With spirits one, with hearts inspired and awed,
We lift them up, we lift them to God!

“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*)

Children's Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Carl Johnson

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:21-28

Cheri Dennis

They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all

amazed, and they kept on asking one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.’ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 “Loose-Leaf Lives” Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Cheri Dennis

Offertory Music “God Loves Everyone”

God is not a man, God is not a white man

God is not a man sitting on a cloud.

God cannot be bought, God will not be boxed in

God will not be owned by religion.

Chorus I: But God is love, God is love, and God loves everyone

God is not a man, God is not an old man

God does not belong to politicians.

God is not a flag, not even American

And God does not depend on a government.

Chorus II: But God is good, God is good, and God loves everyone

Bridge: Far-right wing or Communist, gay or straight or in between

Even the most prejudiced, O God so loves us all

Catholic or Protestant, Terrorist or President

Everybody, everybody, love, love, love, love, love, love.

Chorus I

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

Praise God all creatures here below,

Praise God above all heavenly hosts,

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Dedication

Cheri Dennis

The Installation and Ordination of Deacons and Elders

(Members of the Class of 2020 and Officers come forward.)

Pastor: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of the church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are here to witness to their willingness to serve.

President: Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service on the Consistory of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Members: I am.

President: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Members: I do, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: Are each of you who have committed to serve as officers of the congregation willing to accept the office to which you have been called and are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Officers: I am.

Pastor: Members of this household of faith, you have heard our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

(Current Elders and Deacons and the outgoing class of 2017 are invited forward for the laying on of hands.)

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Pastor: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you, Debbie Davis, Diane Rogers, Lisa Sherman, and Gregg Walker, as Deacons, Suzanne Lamorey and Robert Shepherd as Elders and Micah Baldonado as our Youth Representative. Let us offer our prayers and blessing as a congregation:

People: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties, that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

President: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, we rejoice to announce that you are each ordained as members of the Consistory. May your service be a blessing and cause you to grow in wisdom and in grace. Amen.

* Hymn 495

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”
(*stanzas 1,4*)

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ’s service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God’s chosen end.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person’s sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

* 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.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:00 PM



Light Supper before worship 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Join us for our Ash Wednesday service as we are called to new life. Soup, salad and bread are provided by your Hospitality team. Please bring a dessert to share.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

“Charlotte’s Web” for all - Be a reading buddy with Hidden Valley Elementary third graders in February and March. Contact Dawn in the church office for volunteer forms, office@holycovenantucc.org

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Please sign up with your email address at the bottom if you are interested in attending one of these five week offerings. See next page...

WILDERNESS STORIES, SUNDAYS, 4 PM @ home of Sally Duffy

We each have our own wilderness stories of temptation, wandering and looking for God. We will explore wilderness stories in scripture as they inform our wilderness experiences. Group led by Barbara Thomas and Sally Duffy.

RE-IMAGINING PRAYER, TUESDAYS, 7 PM @ home of Anne Findlay-Chamberlain

What comes to mind when you hear the word “prayer”? This group will provide an opportunity to expand our understanding of prayer, experience a variety of ways to pray, and reflect on those experiences.

LEARNING FROM ST. FRANCIS, WEDNESDAY’S, 1 PM @ Holy Covenant

Facilitated by Nancy Allison and taught by Julie McElmurry, author of “Living & Serving in the Way of St. Francis,” we will focus on the teachings of St. Francis. Each participant will receive a copy of the book.

Register for a Lenten Growth Series

Please tear off and leave in the offering plate or give to an usher as you leave.

Name

Email

Class Choice

JOIN OUR NEW MEMBER - INQUIRER'S CLASSES THIS JANUARY

If you would like to learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, we would encourage you to attend our lay leader-led luncheon, **February 4 at 12:30pm: Organization & Opportunities for Involvement**. We will welcome new members on February 11. Please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining the church and/or attending these classes.

5 WEEKS TO A BETTER RELATIONSHIP - 2 Sessions Remain

Sundays 9:45, Join us as we discuss Daily Temperature Readings and How to Complain. Just drop in! Prior attendance not needed. For more information, contact Kevin Decker, Certified Relationship Coach, Marriage Educator, and Speaker. 704-579-1693 or kevin@kevindecker.com

THE TABULATION TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

This team is responsible for counting the church collection money after church each week. The time commitment is once per month, and takes approximately a half an hour. Contact Terry Raley-Dennis at 704-785-7150 or tldennis2@hotmail.com.

YOGA4ALL RESUMES AT HCUCC JANUARY 31, WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities; Beginners & yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. Mats and blocks are available. Contact David Smith davidsmith02b@gmail.com or call 704-533-2142

SANDWICH MINISTRY RECOMMENCES-NORTH AND SOUTH BUILDS!

After a short break, the sandwich ministry resumes with co-coordinator leaders Barbara Schneller & Linda Burby (South) and Julie McLelland (North). Volunteers are needed for the next builds; **South Park Christian Church, Wednesday, January 31, at 10:30 am** and **Holy Covenant UCC, February 10, at 10:00 am**.

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

Elder for January: Michael Baldonado,
michaelbaldonado@hotmail.com or 502-541-5957
Deacons for January: Debbie Davis, Joe Behr-Stenzel
Greeters: Susan Pascucci, Barbara Schneller
Ushers: Michael Sladek, Barbara Schneller, Shakti Subramanian
Acolyte: Henry Lincoln
Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Lisa Cloninger
Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis, Karen Long
Refreshments: Cheri Dennis
Recyclers: Suzanna Lamorey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Donna Collins, Linn Finger, Eileen Howe, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed Sharp, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Marj Carmine (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, Doug & Christy Howe (Eileen Howe), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), Beth Poyer Meyer, Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Virginia Tomlinson (Tommy Tomlinson), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins), Larry Weidner (Dawn Simmons)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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