



Silent Meditation

... the person who is not afraid to admit everything that seems to be wrong with themselves and yet recognizes that they may be the object of God's love precisely because of their shortcomings, can begin to be sincere. Sincerity is based on confidence, not in our own illusions about ourselves, but in the endless, unfailing mercy of God.

~Thomas Merton

In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love Him but how much He loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe or can't.

~Desmond Tutu

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TRINITY SUNDAY**

May 27, 2018

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements

Barbara Thomas

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)*

Opening Voluntary

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Jeff Hughes

One: The Spirit of the Lord blows where it will;

Many: **Renewing, refreshing, enlivening; the spirit brings life.**

One: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us;

Many: **Inspiring, encouraging, calling us to hope.**

One: The Spirit of the Lord is a mighty wind;

Many: **Cleansing, tearing down the old and lifting up the new.**

One: The Lord is spirit and where the spirit is, there is freedom.

Many: **We the people of God, the followers of God's Son, gather in
gratitude for new signs of the Spirit of God moving in our lives
and in our church.**

All: **The Spirit of the Lord uplifts us. The words spoken by Jesus
our Savior warm our hearts. The love of God is all around us.
Thanks be to God!**

* Passing of the Peace

Jeff Hughes

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 φ Sing Response*

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where're we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

**“O Worship Our God”
(edited by Jared Fischer)**

LYONS

**O worship our God, all glorious above
Whose depth stretches broad with infinite love
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**O tell of thy might, O sing of thy grace
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space
Thy chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And strong is thy path on the wings of the storm.**

Refrain: **You alone are the Matchless One
To you alone may all praise be sung
Your glories and wonders, what tongue can recite?
You breathe in the air, you shine in the light.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light.
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain. (Refrain)**

**O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to worship above
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

Children’s Message

Barbara Thomas

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

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-8

Gregg Walker

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

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

Many: **Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Prayers of the People

Gregg Walker

* Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

NICAEA

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

**All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea.**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Many: **Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* Offertory Invitation

Cheri Dennis

Offering Music

* Response of Thanksgiving

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

- φ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offertory Dedication

Cheri Dennis

* Hymn 355

“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”
(verses 1 & 4)

HYFRYDOL

God the Spir-it, guide and guard-ian,
wind-sp-ed flame and hov-ering dove,
Breath of life and voice of proph-ets,
sign of bless-ing, power of love:
Give to those who lead your peo-ple
fresh a-noint-ing of your grace;
Send them forth as bold a-pos-tles
to your church in ev-ery place.

Tri-une God, Mys-te-rious be-ing,
un-di-vid-ed and di-verse,
Deeper than our minds can fath-om,
great-er than our creeds re-hearse:
Help us in our var-ied call-ings
your full im-age to pro-claim,
That our min-is-tries u-nit-ing
may give glo-ry to your name.

* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

Postlude

No matter who you are
or where you are on your 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.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC; BOUNCE HOUSE AND GIANT JENGA! JUNE 10

Join us following worship for a Pork BBQ picnic. Hospitality will provide buns & beverages, Jim Dwiggins is providing the "Q". Sign up in the gathering room with your side dish or dessert to share. Fun for all!

WELCOME SUNDAY, JUNE 10

We will welcome new members into our church family on June 10. Please contact Debbie Davis (debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com) if you would like to

join Holy Covenant on June 10 and have not previously talked with Pastor Nancy about joining or have any questions about our next Welcome Sunday. We are indeed blessed by all who choose to journey together in ministry at HCUCC!

DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Please notify the church office of students associated with Holy Covenant who will be graduating from high school or college this spring. We would like a picture and brief bio for each student for publication in the bulletin on Graduation Sunday, June 10th. office@holycovenantucc.org

CELEBRATIONS - ORDER YOUR BRICK NOW!

Are you celebrating a birthday, wedding, graduation? Is there someone or something you want to honor? Please consider ordering a memorial garden brick for \$100 check made out to Holy Covenant UCC and honor your special occasion or loved one through an enscripted brick. Order forms are available at the church or you may contact Debbie Davis (debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com) for an electronic order form. We will be placing our next brick order by mid-June. Please be a part of it!

SALISBURY PRIDE, JUNE 23

Please plan to sign up to help staff our HCUCC booth at the Salisbury Pride Festival to be held on **Saturday, June 23, 11 AM -5 PM** in historic downtown Salisbury. This event is a wonderful outreach to share information about our church and share our witness with many who attend this festival. **Sign up by June 13th** in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey (suzlam@yahoo.com) with questions.

"GOING DEEPER SPIRITUALLY" JUNE 28 7 PM

Join us on the 4th Thursday each month for quiet reflection and sharing with a variety of activities to add/augment our spiritual practices. Our next gathering will be 7:00 PM, June 28 at the home of Kristin Andes and Tom Magraw. Bring a "table blessing" to share with the group that holds meaning for you. It can be one from your own heritage, or one from another culture. Please email Anne Findlay-Chamberlain (kahuanne@gmail.com) Kristin (kjandes@aol.com) or Tom (tmagraw@aol.com), by **June 26** with questions and to RSVP.

YMCA's SUMMER "Y READERS" PROGRAM

This program targets K-3rd grade children who are reading below grade level and need some personal attention to increase their reading and writing skills, with the goal to be proficient in reading by end of 3rd grade. Hidden Valley, Huntingtowne Farms, Huntersville Elementary, Iron Station, Reid Park Academy, Albemarle Road, Hickory Grove, Highland Renaissance, Nations Ford, and Park View Schools. Contact Lisa Sherman at jsherman007@carolina.rr.com or 704-737-8263

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, June 3, several of the ladies will be attending the Women's Retreat in Blowing Rock, so those Sojourners who are present will watch the next lecture in the Bart Ehrman video series, *How Jesus Became God*. All are welcome to attend at 9:45 in the Conference Room, and no preparation is necessary.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to all who provide snacks after worship, part of providing our extravagant welcome! To help keep us organized, we are now using an electronic signup for volunteers called **SignUpGenius**.

<https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks>

YOGA4ALL AT HOLY COVENANT, WEDNESDAYS 7:30PM

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities. Questions? Contact David at davidsmith02b@gmail.com

THE HCUCC BOOK CLUB READING SCHEDULE:

June 13 - *Americanah* by *Ngozhi Adichie* (Mary Ann Miklos)

July 10 - *Lab Girl* by *Hope Jahren* (Diane Burleson)

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

TRAVELING? Look for the toiletries and amenities collection bin in the gathering room. Bring your unused travel size shampoos, soaps, lotions, shower caps, etc. We'll see they get to those who need them!

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

Elder for May: Robert Shepherd, RShepVidEd@att.net or 704-618-1322

Deacons for May: Debbie Davis, Gregg Walker

Greeters: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

Ushers: Shakti Subramanian, Michael Sladek, Eileen Howe, Barb Schneller

Acolyte: Henry Lincoln

Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Terry Raley Dennis, Karen Long

Refreshments: Debbie Davis, Joy Decker, Micki Spear

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp, Caroline & Don Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Diane Brown (Renee Brown & Kelly Gimlin), Baby Girl Cregan (Barb Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Caroline Herdle (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Beth Poyer Meyer, Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Minister for Church & Family Life

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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