



Silent Meditation

Let me tell you who you are.
You are a ray of God's own light.
You say you seek God, but a ray of light doesn't seek the sun;
it's coming from the sun.
You are a branch on the vine of God.
A branch doesn't seek the vine; it's already part of the vine.
A wave doesn't look for the ocean; it's already full of ocean.

~Martin Laird

Jesus pointed to something he called God's domain, something he did not create, something he did not control.
I want to discover what Jesus saw, or heard, or sensed that was so enchanting, so mesmerizing, so challenging that it held Jesus in its spell.
And I do not want to be misled by what his followers did: instead of looking to see what he saw, his devoted disciples tended to stare at the pointing finger.

~Robert W. Funk

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

August 5, 2018

Gathering Music

David A. Smith

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.)*

Opening Voluntary

David A. Smith

* Call to Worship

Isley Whitfield

One: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

**Many: Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit
and in truth.**

One: Yet the world says there is not enough.

Many: Christ calls us into the ways of faith.

One: The world says there is too much to be done.

Many: Christ calls us into the ways of hope.

One: The world nurses too many wars and too much violence.

Many: Christ calls us into the ways of peace.

One: There is just too much to think about, it would be easier to
think only about ourselves.

**All: Christ calls us into the ways of love. Christ calls us to love
others as we love ourselves, and in Christ's love, we know
that faith surpasses all understanding. We are not alone. Let
us worship Christ together on this journey of faith.**

* Passing of the Peace

Isley Whitfield

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of 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*

* Hymn

“Gather Us In”

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away:
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human-race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong:
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters,
Here we receive the bread of new birth:
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink, the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you:
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship” Brian Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time/ To give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are
Before your God/ Come

One day every/ Tongue will confess
You are God
One day every knee will bow/ Still the greatest treasure
Remains for those
Who gladly choose You now *(Repeat all)*

(Instrumental break)

One day ... (2x)

Come, now ...

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.)

The Reception of New Members

Questions of Candidates Coco, Nate, Heather and Jason Ward

Response of the Congregation

One: Will the members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ please rise and join in the mutual promise and welcome?

* Many: We welcome each of you and celebrate your journey of faith. We promise to search with you for truth in Scripture, word and witness; to walk with you in life’s joys and sorrows; to support you when life is shaken; to laugh with you when life lifts your spirit; to share silence, song and sacrament; and to grow in Christian love and mutual appreciation. We will rely on God’s sustaining presence as we journey forward together.

Greeting of Christian Love

Hosts: *On behalf of the entire congregation, it is our pleasure to welcome you as full members of Holy Covenant United Church of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome.*

Song of Celebration

HALLELUJAH

φ Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah, Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah;
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Pastoral Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Special Music

“Heart Won’t Stop”

JM McMillan

* Gospel Lesson

John 6:24-35

Michael Baldonado

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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

“The Gifts of God”

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Michael Baldonado

Offering Music

* Offering Response 55

MARION

φ **Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forevermore
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

* Offertory Dedication

Michael Baldonado

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. As we join together in Holy Communion we invite all to confess our faith as Christians:

* * UCC Statement of Faith (NCH 885)

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.

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

(Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.

The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.)

Music for Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

**We give thanks to you our God for sustaining us for the journey;
For bringing love, life, health and holiness,
For bringing us closer to you,
For knowing you are with us in our waiting;
You are with us in our living. Amen.**

* 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

David A. Smith

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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members Jason & Heather Ward. We celebrate the baptism of Heather, Coco and Nate yesterday at their home! Many thanks to our hosts Renee Brown & Kelly Gimlin for guiding our new members.

MINISTRY DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO DAVID A. SMITH

David Smith has been a member of Holy Covenant since 1994 and throughout his membership has been engaged in our music ministries. We are grateful to David and the Music Cooperative for leading us in worship today in this interim time.

GREENFAITH MEETING TODAY, AUGUST 5

Rev. Amy Brooks, green-circle organizer, will be meeting with us following worship to share the GreenFaith initiative that is beginning in the Charlotte area. GreenFaith initiatives bring people together from different congregations and communities at the local level to address environmental concerns.

PICK UP CHOIR, AUGUST 12

Join with other HC singers in a Pick Up Choir for Sunday morning August 12 at 10:00 am! Even if you have never sung with our choir before, THIS is the Sunday to join in the celebration! We will meet in the choir room and prepare a simple song to share with the congregation during worship. We'd love to have your voice raised in praise this Sunday morning!

CHARLOTTE PRIDE'S ANNUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE, AUGUST 12

Sunday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m. St. John's Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte. There will be a reception following the Service.

RACE MATTERS FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (RMJJ) PRESENTS

IMPLICIT BIAS PART I, AUGUST 16

Presentations are free and all are welcomed! Tyvola Senior Center, 2225 Tyvola Rd, CLT; 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

CHARLOTTE PRIDE, AUGUST 18 & 19

HCUCC BOOTH DOWNTOWN SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Can you help with the HCUCC booth? Look for the signup sheet in the Gathering Room.

SPECIAL UCC OFFERING: CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Challenge Gift has been met! One of our members has offered to match every gift up to \$1000 for this offering. HCUCC Members contributed \$1165!

YES! IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

The stores are beginning to stock cute backpacks and lots of notebooks which means the start of school, August 27 for CMS, is close at hand. We will be providing "extras" for David Cox Elementary School again this year. Bring your notebooks, backpacks, markers, crayons, pencils and paper with you to church, **no later than August 19th**, and help make the start of school even happier for kids who can go home excited about their new teacher and their new supplies.

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

Elder for August: Faye Humphrey, fghumphrey@yahoo.com or 704-618-2750

Deacons for August: Martha Bomely, Diane Rogers

Greeters: Carl Johnson, Phyllis Johnson

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barbara Schneller

Acolyte: Riley Long

Media: Brian Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan

Refreshments: River People Covenant Group

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Donna Collins and family in the death of her father, Bill Funderburk

Caroline Utz and family in the death of her husband, Don

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

Friends & Family Members

Family & Friends of Caroline Wallace (Jeff Edwards Knight)

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Logan Bayes, Caryn Capps, Ashley & Evelyn Kate Cregan (Barb Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Jim Epting (Robert Shepherd), Caroline Herdle (Beth Sharp), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Barbara Lees (Donna Collins), Beth Poyer Meyer, Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Anne Sherrill (Donna Collins), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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