



## MINDFULNESS

In Chinese calligraphy, the word mindfulness is expressed by two characters: The top character (a shelter) represents the word now; below that is the character for heart. The literal translation means bringing the heart into the present.

## Silent Meditation

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness.

It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

*~Mahatma Gandhi*

*Do exactly what you would do if you felt most secure.*

*~Meister Eckhart*

I finally understand what life is about. It is, quite simply, acknowledging how things are -- living in the truth. And the truth is that God is the source and sustainer of everything. ... God is reality, the breath, the life, the power, the love beneath, above, around, and in everything.

*~ Sallie McFague*

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

August 19, 2018

Gathering Music

David Gilliland

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 Gilliland

\* Call to Worship

Ward Family

One: Come, give thanks to the Living God with all your heart and mind and soul!

**Many: We come, rejoicing over God's many blessings poured out on us. We come, grateful for the gifts of body and mind. We come, with thanksgiving for spiritual nourishment.**

One: Come, celebrate the love of God,

**Many: For children who worship you through their wonder in the world's sights and sounds and movements.**

One: God's works in creation, in our lives, in our music and art and worship are mighty!

**Many: We delight in learning about them.**

One: Come, celebrate the love of God,

**Many: for congregations who fill their lives with faith, their voices with song, their hands with offerings, and their words with gratitude.**

One: Respect for God and all that God offers is the beginning of wisdom.

**Many: With gratefulness and humility, we shall praise and honor God all our lives.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Ward Family

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

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing  
My great Re-deem-er’s praise,  
The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing  
The tri-umphs of God’s grace!
  
2. My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God,  
As-sist me to pro-claim,  
To spread through all the earth a-broad  
The hon-ors of your name.
  
3. Je-sus! the name that clams our fears,  
That bids our sor-rows cease  
Is mu-sic in the sin-ner’s ears,  
Is life, and health, and peace!
  
4. Glo-ry to God, and love and praise  
Be ev-er, ev-er given  
By all the saints in ev-ery age,  
The church in earth and heaven.

I was there to hear your borneing cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in,  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borneing cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

## THE SERVICE OF FAMILY DEDICATION

**Pastor:** Children are a gift of God and are committed to their parents for care, protection, love and instruction. May we greet each new son and daughter with joy, and surround them with faith, so they may experience God's presence and want to serve God.

**Many:** **Never let us neglect children, but help us to delight in them, showing them the welcome God has shown us all.**

**Pastor:** Your beloved daughter is a gift from God. Camdyn's birth is an occasion to celebrate and to reflect on God's goodness. Melissa and Von, what is your response to this measure of God's love?

**Parents:** **We are blessed.**

**Pastor:** Scripture instructs parents to teach your child about God's love and grace and the life and witness of Jesus. Your child's spiritual welfare will not be nourished by your prayer, word and example alone. It is your witness, along with those closest to you and the Holy Spirit at work in your lives that will impart to her the gifts and claims of the Christian faith, as well as the nurture, discipline, and instruction of God. Parents, Godparents and Family, what is your response?

**Family:** **We are committed to her nurture and instruction.**

**Pastor:** Brothers and sisters of the household of faith, I commend to you Camdyn LaVon McQueen-Simmons and her parents Melissa and Vondalyn. Will you do all in your power to make this church a true spiritual home for them, lending them the support of your prayers and your example?

**\* Many:** **With God's help we will so seek to follow Christ ourselves that this family will be strengthened and confirmed in their resolve, and that all our children, surrounded by steadfast love, may be nurtured in the faith and strengthened in the way that leads to life.**

\* Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Nancy Ellett Allison

God of grace, we pray for these parents, and for all parents. Help them to know you, to love with your love, to teach your truth, and to tell the story of Jesus to their children so that your word may be heard. Bless this family. Guard them safely through injury and illness that they may live the promises you give. Keep us, with this child and with all children, ready to listen and to love, even as in Jesus Christ you have loved us. With gratitude we lift our prayers together. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION AND BLESSING OF CAMDYN LAVON MCQUEEN-SIMMONS  
*Camdyn is the daughter of Melissa and Vondalyn McQueen-Simmons*  
*Camdyn was born January 26, 2018*

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.)*

Report from Guatemala

Suzanne Lamorey

\* Gospel Lesson

John 6:51-58

Suzanne Lamorey

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.'

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

Special Music

Flo Watkins

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 3:16-21

Jeff Edwards-Knight

I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

"Prayers of Blessing"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Jeff Edwards-Knight

Offering Music

David Gilliland

\* Offering Response 55

MARION

☩ **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

Jeff Edwards-Knight

1. When peace, like a riv-er, up-holds me each day,  
when sor-rows like sea bil-lows roll,  
What-ev-er my lot, you have taught me to say,  
“It is well; it is well with my soul.”

It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul) it is well,  
It is well with my soul.

2. Though e-vil should tempt me, though tri-als should come,  
let this blessed as-sur-ance con-trol,  
That Christ has re-gard-ed my help-less es-tate,  
and has paid life and blood for my soul:

*(Refrain)*

3. My sin- oh the bliss of this glo-ri-ous thought-  
my sin- not in part, but the whole-  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

*(Refrain)*

4. O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,  
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;  
The trum-pet shall sound and the Lord shall ap-pear,  
“e-ven so” - it is well with my soul.

*(Refrain)*

\* 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.



## 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.

### MUSIC DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO DAVID GILLILAND

David Gilliland is an Artist Associate at Davidson College and a frequent worshiper (along with his delightful daughter, Morgan) and accompanist for Holy Covenant. David has his D.M.A. from the University of Minnesota and is a specialist in choral and wind literature and an active chamber musician.

### CHARLOTTE PRIDE, AUGUST 19

Join us at HCUCS booth! Following worship today, attend the parade and find our booth (#834) and reach out to others about Holy Covenant!

### BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR DAVID COX ELEMENTARY

Thank you to all who have contributed to the supplies for David Cox Elementary School. Classes begin on August 27 and you have helped to make the start a positive experience for all!

### CONSISTORY & MISSIONS & JUSTICE TEAM WILL MEET SUNDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup> FOLLOWING WORSHIP

All are welcomed!

### GOING DEEPER, AUGUST 27

Join us for quiet reflection and sharing with a variety of activities to augment our spiritual practices. This month we will meet at Holy Covenant UCC on **Monday, August 27, 2018** at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Room. We will explore our building (sanctuary and other rooms), and grounds as if seeing it for the first time and share our experiences, ending with a time of prayer. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Anne Findlay-Chamberlain at [kahuanne@gmail.com](mailto:kahuanne@gmail.com) by Sunday, August 19.

## **HCUCC BOOK CLUB**

September 12- Pachinko by *Min Jin Lee* discussion leader Barbara Schneller. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte.

## **DISCOUNTS OFFERED FOR LIFE LINE SCREENING, SEPTEMBER 12**

On Wednesday, September 12th, Life Line Screening will be at the church all day. They have offered to HCUCC church members, either 1 individual screening (worth \$70) or \$55 discount may be applied to any vascular package valued of \$129 or more. If this is of interest to you, please call Dawn Simmons in the church office for details for scheduling, and to obtain your discount number: 704-599-9810.

## **ONA RETREAT AT JOHN'S RIVER VALLEY CAMP, SEPTEMBER 13-15**

Andy Lang will guide participants in a time of reflecting on where the ONA movement has been and creating a vision of where it might go. \$150 per person. Includes 4 meals and two nights lodging in the Boger Site Lodges.

## **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: Shirley Moder, Suzanne Lamorey

Ushers: Tom Magraw, Suzanne Lamorey, Jim Hong

Acolyte: Elena Houlihan

Media: Brian Hankins, Debbie Davis, Renee Brown

Tabulators: Joy Decker, JoAnn Jellison

Refreshments: Eric & Edy Bergstrom

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### Members

Jim & Lisa Sherman in the death of Jim's mother, Margaret Sherman  
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, Caroline Utz

### Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Caryn Capps, Ashley & Baby Girl 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)

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on your journey,  
you are welcome here!*

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor  
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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

**[www.holycovenantucc.org](http://www.holycovenantucc.org) [office@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:office@holycovenantucc.org) 704-599-9810**