



Silent Meditation

**Mysterious Source of Love, moving within and between and
among us; upholding and connecting all:
the living, the dead, and the generations yet to come.
We give thanks for the web of all creation, strands interwoven.
And for the gifts of love, which can never be ungiven or unraveled.
~ Molly Housh Gordon**

**When you remember me, it means that you have carried something
of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on
who you are.**

**It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though
countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we
meet again, you will know me.**

**It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my
voice and speak to me in your heart.**

For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost.

~ Frederick Buechner

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

November 4, 2018

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

Kathleen Smith

Welcome and Announcements ☩

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

*(Please pass the friendship pads so that all worshippers
have the opportunity to sign them)*

Opening Voluntary

Kathleen Smith

* Words of Preparation

Jim Sherman

One: Love the Living God, all you saints.

Many: **Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait
for the Everlasting God.**

One: In God's presence, we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses;
people of all the ages who worship with hope and faith.

Many: **In our communion with the Living God, we have communion
with generations past and generations yet unborn.**

One: As we celebrate the lives of ordinary saints, may we learn by
their example how to make a way in this world.

Many: **Help us never shrink in the face of duty or be content to
meander in mediocrity. Help us learn to live fully and love
deeply as we give thanks to God, who leads and guides us all.**

* Passing of the Peace

Jim Sherman

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

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
‘mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And share with them a glorious crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
Then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

God, we thank you for our peo-ple,
roots dug deep with-in the soil,
har-dy spir-its, rich in lov-ing,
strong for strug-gle, bold for toil.
Faith-ful Rock of gen-er-a-tions,
you whom par-ents’ par-ents praised;
Here in hope as we re-mem-ber
may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God for gen-tle plea-sure;
les-sons learned and se-crets told,
hopes and mem-ories saved as trea-sure,
passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries,
food by lov-ing hands pre-pared.
God, we bless you for your pres-ence
in our tears and laugh-ter shared.

By you Spir-it of cre-a-tion
keep us bold for risk-ing still,
ea-ger in in-ti-ci-pa-tion,
ev-er strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one an-oth-er,
shar-ing life and death and birth,
Wel-com-ing as sis-ter, brother,
all your chil-dren on the earth.

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

* Gospel Lesson

Mark 12:28-34

Jonathan Stone

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that (Jesus) answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.'

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

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

Prayers of the People & Litany of Remembrance

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: O Risen Christ, today we remember with fondness all your saints who have been called to their eternal home, especially those from our church community who have died during this past year: Robert Fisher, Susan Bennett Stiles, Isley Mae Whitfield. There are others who have died over the past year who were important to us. There are those who we continue to miss, although more than a year has passed since they were with us. At the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember them.

Many: At the rustling of the leaves, and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

One: At the blowing of the wind and the chill of the winter, we remember them.

Many: At the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

- One: At the blueness of the skies, and in the warmth of the summer, we remember them.
- Many: **During the holiday occasions, and at the year's end, we remember them.**
- One: As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.
- Many: **When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.**
- One: When we are lost and sick in heart, we remember them.
- All: **When we have joy we want to share, we remember them. We offer all these memories into your care and keeping, knowing they are held always in your presence. Amen.**

Notes of Remembrance

music by Kathleen Smith, David McGuirt, Bridget Green

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 11 & 12 Diane Neese & Fred Robinson
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible....

By faith Abraham and Sarah obeyed when they were called to set out for a place that they were to receive as an inheritance; and they set out, not knowing where they were going. By faith they stayed for a time in the land they had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with them of the same promise. For they looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Abraham received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren. Therefore from this couple, and both as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore....’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin....

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace....

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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 "Saintly Shoulders" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Fred Robinson

Offertory Kathleen Smith

* Doxology ELLACOMBE

☉ **As saints of old their first-fruits brought of orchard, flock and field,
To God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
So we today first-fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
Of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
To serve Your cause and share Your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ Your Son,
Teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

* Offertory Dedication Fred Robinson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Nancy Ellett Allison, Fred Robinson

One: We gather at this table, God's table;

Many: **The table has been set long before we were born.**

One: There are places for all who have gone before us,

Many: **We take their hands as we approach to be received.**

One: You are welcome at this table, Christ's table.

ALL: **The faithful ones are gathered with us from all generations. We lift up the memories of loved ones we no longer see, we open our hearts to the presence of loved ones who are with God, for God is present with us. This is the table of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of restoration. This is the table for all the saints of God.**

One: We lift our hearts in gratitude and unity as together we pray,

ALL: **Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

Ushers will direct you to come forward to receive communion and light a candle to remember the saints in your life.

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 during Communion

“Remember Me”

by Mark Schultz

Kathi Smith, Lisa Cloninger, vocals, David McGuirt, guitar

Prayer after Communion (*in unison*)

In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and these people, we give ourselves to you. Lead us forward to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us. And thus Living God, may we live as your saints in this world. Amen.

* Hymn 293

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

(v. 1)

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Ho-ly Spir-it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove,
stay right here with us, fill-ing us with your love;
And for these bless-ings we lift our hearts in praise.
With-out a doubt we'll know that we have
ben re-vived when we shall leave this place.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

Kathleen Smith

Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published, please contact the church office by phone or email.

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 ARE WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Jesus made it a practice to eat with those identified as both saints and sinners. As saints and sinners, join us at Christ's table of celebration. Communion is received by intinction so we invite you to take a piece of bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the communion cup (containing juice) to receive both elements.

MINISTRY DURING OUR INTERIM: THANK YOU TO KATHLEEN SMITH

Kathi Smith has been a member of Holy Covenant since 2002 and throughout her membership has been engaged in our music ministries. We are grateful to Kathi for leading us in worship today as we begin this interim time together.

CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Following worship today you are welcome to stay and join our choir for Advent and Christmas music rehearsals. Most Sundays following worship we will be gathering. Share your musical gifts with Holy Covenant and join the choir! Contact Lisa Cloninger at lisacmsw@hotmail.com for more info.

WHAT SHALL I BRING?

Thanks to everyone who has responded with information on their planned giving to Holy Covenant for 2019. The current totals are General Fund, \$146,700 or 75% of goal, and Building Fund, \$45,370 or 90% of goal. Based on past years experience we know that many more of you give generously on a regular basis, and ask that you return your information in

by this Monday, November 5. We are finalizing the 2019 spending plan, including salaries and ministries. Please prayerfully consider what you will bring to Holy Covenant in 2019 and respond on your planned giving as soon as possible. An online commitment can be made at HolyCovenantUCC.org.

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK, NOVEMBER 18

Our 2018 Annual Meeting is our opportunity to discuss and share the work of the church with the entire congregation. To conduct the business of the church we need a quorum - and that means we need our members present! If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please contact Consistory President **Jeff Edwards Knight**.

A potluck will follow the meeting. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided.

HCUCC ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR NOVEMBER 11

Start your holiday shopping with Holy Covenant. You will have the opportunity to shop on Sunday, November 11. Homemade gifts will be available from 9:45am-10:40am, as well as following worship. Use Cash, Checks or Credit Card. REMEMBER - 10% of all proceeds go to Holy Covenant Missions so please come, shop, and support your fellow parishioners and your church at the same time! If you plan to participate as a vendor, contact Kim Tyler, yhr762@yahoo.com or Kay Smith at happyartbykay@gmail.com.

MISSIONS & JUSTICE NEWS

There will be a Missions and Justice **team meeting on Sunday, November 11** following worship. There are a lot of things going on that Sunday and every Sunday but it may be the only time we can get together before the end of the year. Topics for discussion are welcomed. Please contact Lloyd or Gussie Spencer, lloydspener@triad.rr.com. A **coordinator for HCUCC/Elon Homes events** is needed. Micheal Hall, Barb Schneller, Gussie and Lloyd Spencer took a meal to the Elon Home Village on October 28th. It was a great experience! The **Holy Covenant CROP walk team collected \$1,155.00** in donations. Thank you for all the support and commitment to help alleviate world hunger in Charlotte and the world. 25% of all local donations will be divided between 3 agencies: Crisis Assistance Ministries, Loaves and Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank. Come, be a part of HCUCC M&J team!

UPPER ROOM MINISTRY, NOVEMBER 12-16

HCUCC's *Upper Room Ministry*-can you join us for a meaningful time of prayer, bible study or conversation, with our neighbors at Urban Ministry Center? If so, please contact Phil Kaveler, pwkaveler@yahoo.com. November 12-16, 12-12:30 pm.

TIME OUT YOUTH, FAMILY STYLE DINNER, NOVEMBER 29

T.O.Y. is a place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGTBQ) youth ages 11-20 can experience a sense of belonging & community. Please consider helping with this next meal planned for **Thursday, November 29**. All are welcomed! Contact Bob Saylor, bchs3201@aol.com.

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:
Elder for November: Robert Shepherd, RShepVidEd@att.net or 704-618-1322
Deacons for November: James Hong, Cheryl Milam
Greeters: Vondalyn McQueen-Simmons, Sue Pascucci
Ushers: JP Griffin, Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barb Schneller
Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger, Keith Dennis
Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Alice Phelan
Refreshments: Tina Dickens, Linda Carver
Recyclers: Phil Kaveler



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Brian Hankins and family, in the death of Brian's father, George Hankins
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jill
Gregg, Eileen Howe, 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 Evelyn Kate Cregan
(Barbara Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Barbara Hunt (Donna
Collins), David Owens (Donna Collins), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler),
Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye
Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna
Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda
Williams (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Rev. Frederick D. Robinson, Associate Pastor

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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