



Silent Meditation

We live under the mercy. God does not treat us as alien others, lining us up so [as to] evaluate our competence or our usefulness or our worth. God rules, guides, commands, loves us as children whose destinies God carries in God's heart.

The word mercy means that the upward look to God in the heavens does not expect God to stay in the heavens, but to come down, to enter our condition, to accomplish the vast enterprise of redemption, to fashion, in us, God's eternal salvation.

~Eugene Peterson

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 11, 2018

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

David A. 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

David A. Smith

* Words of Preparation

Jim Dwiggin

One: We celebrate that where people are gathered together in love.

Many: **God is present, good things happen and life is full.**

One: We celebrate that we are immersed in mystery, that our lives
are more than they seem.

Many: **We celebrate that we belong to each other and to a universe
of great creative energies, whose source and destiny is God.**

One: We celebrate that the spirit of God beat in the heart of Elijah
the Tishbite and Jesus of Nazareth,

Many: **And God's good news was heard by the broken and wounded.**

One: We celebrate that the spirit of peace is present with us, the
church, as we gather to celebrate our common existence, and
the faithfulness of God.

Many: **We celebrate that in our struggle to love, we incarnate God in
the world.**

One: Aware of mystery and wonder, caught in friendship and
laughter,

Many: **We become speechless before the joy in our hearts as we
celebrate the sacredness of life.** *(Adapt. J Shea/Hunt)*

* Passing of the Peace

Jim Dwiggin

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*

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, God of love;
Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore you, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;
Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.

2. All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re-flect your rays,
Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.

3. You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;
Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.

4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;
Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re-con-cil-ing race and clan.
Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,
Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Children's Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

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

Special Music

"I am a Pilgrim"
John Rapp, Music Cooperative

by Merle Travis

* Gospel Lesson

Mark 12:38-44

Renee Brown

As he taught, (Jesus) said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then (Jesus) called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

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

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

* Hymn

"Come As You Are"

David Crowder

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken hearted, let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, oh sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

Refrain: So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, you're not too far
Lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure (*Refrain*)

Come as you are, come as you are
Fall in Love's arms, come as you are
There's joy for the morning, oh my soul be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal (*Refrain*)

Prayers of the People

Fred Robinson

Hebrew Scriptures

1 Kings 17: 8-16

Fred Robinson

Then the word of the Living God came to Elijah, saying, 'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' So Elijah set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' But she said, 'As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Living One sends rain on the earth.' She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of God that God spoke by Elijah.

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

"Needy People"

Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation

Fred Robinson

Offertory

David A. Smith

* Doxology

ELLECOMBE

φ 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

* Hymn

“Down By the Riverside”

SPIRITUAL

I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,
I'm gonna study war no more.

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside. (2x)
I'm gonna study war no more.

Refrain: I ain't gonna study war no more (3x)

I'm gonna put on my long white robe, down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside. (2x)
I'm gonna study war no more.

I'm gonna walk with my Jesus, down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside. (2x)
I'm gonna study war no more. (*Refrain*)

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 391

NEW DIMENSIONS

φ God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar;
We, your people, ours the journey now and ever,
Now and ever, now and evermore.

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.

MUSIC 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.

CONSISTORY MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Consistory will meet in the Conference Room and we will make a final review of the proposed Constitutional amendments. If you have any comments or feedback concerning the proposed amendments, please join us for the meeting.

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**, jeff763@aol.com or 704-651-4838.

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

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING, NOVEMBER 18

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and

direct service projects through grants. We will gratefully receive this offering next Sunday.

HCUCC ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR TODAY!

Start your holiday shopping with Holy Covenant. You will have the opportunity to shop 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!

MISSIONS & JUSTICE - NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED!

There will be a Missions and Justice team **meeting today** following worship in the Sojourner's Classroom. We are pleased to share that 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. Come, be a part of HCUCC M&J team! Many things are behind us, many things yet to come.

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.

SANDWICH MINISTRY, DECEMBER 1 AT HCUCC

Did you know that once a month some of us get together for 30 minutes of sandwich making? This long-standing ministry is a simple and tangible way to help our homeless neighbors. We will meet at 10 am on Saturday, December 1 in Holy Covenant's kitchen. All supplies and delivery to the Urban Ministry Center provided. Contact Julie McLelland at j.mclelland@att.net if you are interested.

HOLY COVENANT TO HOST ROOM IN THE INN

December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10

HCUCC will again host our yet to be housed neighbors to keep them warm, give them a place to shower, and feed them hot meals. Can you help with this ministry? Check the signup sheets in the Gathering Room...there are many ways you can help to welcome our neighbors in need.

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

The HCUCC book club reading schedule:

December 12: Andrew Sean Greer's *Less*, a laugh out loud novel, which we can all use! **January 9:** Joanna Cannon's *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*, a mystery of sorts, another nice change of pace for our book club. We meet at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

HCUCC YOGA4ALL, NOCEMBER/DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Classes are geared toward inclusivity of all levels of experience and abilities....Beginners and those who are yoga-curious are encouraged to attend. If you have questions, contact David davidsmith02b@gmail.com or 704-533-2142. Join us at 7:30 PM: **November 28, December 12, 19 & 26.** Namaste!

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: Laura Hankins, Suzanne Lamorey

Ushers: Kevin Edwards Knight, Joy Decker, Kevin Decker, Sue Pascucci

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Diane Rogers, Kathi Smith

Refreshments: Phil Kaveler, Chip & Judi Lord, Carl & Phyllis Johnson

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

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)

*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
Rev. Fredrick D. Robinson, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810