



Silent Meditation

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

~Bishop Ken Untener

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

June 9, 2019

Prelude & Chiming of the Bells

David Gilliland

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the Spirit of the living Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

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

Opening Voluntary “Lord, I Want to be a Christian”

SPIRITUAL

Felicia Robinson, vocals, David Gilliland, piano

* Call to Worship

Debbie Davis

One: People of Pentecost, receive the Holy Spirit like a rushing,
cleansing wind!

Many: **Blow Wind of God and carry us forward on our journey of faith.**

One: People of Pentecost,
receive the Holy Spirit like tongues of fire upon you!

Many: **Inflaming Fire, source of our courage, burn your truth into
our hearts.**

One: People of Pentecost,
receive the Holy Spirit, the breath of the risen Christ!

Many: **As the spirits of this selfish world have insinuated themselves
into our lives, come with your Fire and burn away the trivia.**

One: People of Pentecost,
receive the Holy Spirit who sets us free for life and love!

Many: **Living, speaking God, blow, burn, renew us in this day so that
we may be gathered in your love!**

* Passing of the Peace

Debbie Davis

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of peace, for it is the
Spirit’s breath which makes us one.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

1. Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us,
Come with Pen-te-cos-tal power;
Give the church a strong-er vi-sion,
Help us face each cru-cial hour.
Built up-on a firm foun-d -tion,
Je-sus Christ, the Cor-ner-stone,
Still the church is called to mission
That God's love shall be made known.

2. We would raise our al-le-lu-ias
For the grace of for-mer years;
For to-mor-row's un-known path-way,
Hear, O God, our hum-ble prayers.
In the church's pil-grim jour-ney
You have led us all the way,
Still in pres-ence move be-fore us,
Fire by night and cloud by day.

3. Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us;
Give us words of fire and flame.
Help our strug-gling voic-es praise you,
Glo-ri-fy your ho-ly name.
Good Cre-a-tor, Sav-ior, Spir-it,
Three in One: what mys-ter-y!
We would sing our loud ho-san-nas
Now and through e-ter-ni-ty.

Anthem

“You Are Good”
Music Cooperative

by Israel Houghton

Lord, you are good and your mercy endureth forever (*repeat*)

People from every nation and tongue/ From generation to generation

We worship you, hallelujah, hallelujah/We worship you, for who you are

You are good all the time, all the time, you are good

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.)

Special Music

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

R. Robinson

Kathi Smith, Lisa Cloninger, Judah L. Jones, vocals

David Gilliland, piano

Epistle Lesson

Romans 8:22-27

Julie McLelland

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will 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.

Prayer at Pentecost

Judah Jones

One: Creator God, who came to us as Jesus the Christ and who fills us with the Holy Spirit, breathe in us anew this day, fall afresh on our weary spirits.

All: ϕ **Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.**

One: Living God, as we celebrate the birthing of the church on this Pentecost Sunday, we remember the faithful ministry of our forebears who worked to establish our congregation as a light of hope in this community. We give thanks for today's living saints who have shaped our present and enlivened our future, continuing to generously offer their gifts in your service. Breathe your Spirit in us as we seek to keep a vibrant faith alive in this new day and age.

All: ϕ **Spirit of the Living God...**

One: Loving God, as we renew our commitments to following Jesus, we give thanks for your life-sustaining presence that enlivens our calling to be the hands and feet of mission. Breathe your Spirit in us as we strive to bring the gospel alive in this new day and age.

All: ϕ **Spirit of the Living God...**

One: Gracious God, empower us as a congregation to speak boldly and to act courageously on the journey of ministry that lies before us, affirming our heritage and proclaiming our hope. Breathe your Spirit in us as we strive to bring the gospel alive in this new day and age.

All: ϕ **Spirit of the Living God...**

One: God of all, join our hearts as one as together we pray...

Our God in whom is heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

The Acts of the Apostles Acts 2:1-21 (*paraphrase*) Fred Robinson

When the day of Pentecost, the feast of the Giving of the Law had arrived, the eleven disciples, the women and others who had also followed Jesus from the beginning were all together in the upper room where they had broken bread and shared the cup with him on the night of Passover before crucifixion and where he had met them on the night of the day he arose from the dead.

And suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty, driving wind filling all the house where they were sitting. And the light of God which shines in the darkness, which shines preeminently in the face of Jesus rested upon the head of each one of them, as it were a flame, a tongue of fire, like that which burned in a bush on Sinai and consumed it not.

And they were, every one of them --- filled with the Holy Spirit.....

the Spirit which brooded over the primeval chaos at Creation's Dawn....

The Spirit which fell upon the prophets, enabling them to hear the word of the Lord, and to preach it....

The Spirit which descended upon Jesus at his baptism....

Each one then declared the message given to that one uniquely and everyone, from near and far, could understand all that was said. So, it was fulfilled as it had been foretold by the prophet Joel: That their children would prophesy. That the young would see visions and that the elders would dream. Because, the Spirit of the Living God was poured out on all...the new covenant, written on the heart had succeeded the one written on stone; the one who was to lead them into all truth had come!

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 "Welcoming Diversity" Nancy Ellett Allison

Strengthen the Church & Offertory Invitation Fred Robinson

Offering Music David Gilliland

* Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above all heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Offertory Dedication Fred Robinson

1. Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;
To-gether God's great love pro-claim, (2x)
and thus sur-round the throne. (2x)

Refrain:

We're march-ing to Zi-on,
beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful Zi-on;
We're march-ing on-ward to Zi-on,
the beau-ti-ful cit-y of God.

2. Let those re-fuse to sing who nev-er knew our God;
But we our thanks and praise will bring, (2x)
for love so deep and broad. (2x) *Refrain:*
3. God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glo-ry sown;
Ce-les-tial fruits on earth-ly ground, (2x)
from faith and hope have grown. (2x) *Refrain:*
4. The hill of Zi-on yields a thou-sand sa-cred sweets
Be-fore we reach the heav-en-ly fields, (2x)
or walk the gold-en streets. (2x) *Refrain:*
5. Then let our songs a-bound, and ev-ery tear be dry;
We're trav-eling through Em-man-uel's ground, (2x)
to great-er world on high. (2x) *Refrain:*

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

☩ 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 Gilliland

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

PLEASE SIGN OUR ATTENDANCE REGISTER

WELCOME to all who worship today at Holy Covenant! Guests and members, please sign an attendance register and then pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.

STRENGTHEN CHURCH OFFERING PENTECOST SUNDAY

We will receive the *Strengthen the Church* special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. Please join us in supporting this important offering.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to learn more about our congregation or become a member at Holy Covenant, please join our Summer Inquirer's Classes!

9:30 AM June 16 UCC/Holy Covenant History

9:30 AM June 30 Elders and Deacons Breakfast Ministry Organizational Structure & Opportunities for Involvement

We know it's a busy time with summer vacations, so to help us ensure this timing will work with your schedules, please email JoAnn Jellison at JoAnnJellison@yahoo.com to let her know you plan to attend. Childcare is available if needed.

RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY TEAM, 12:30 GATHERING

The Racial Justice and Equity Team will hold its first meeting TODAY 12:30 after worship service. The team is working on exploring ways that we--as a church--can address issues of racial equity, justice and inclusion per the passage of this resolution from the Consistory. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Rev. Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002 or fredrick@holycovenantucc.org.

TIME OUT YOUTH FAMILY STYLE MEAL, THURSDAY, JUNE 20

We are serving a family style dinner at the Time Out Youth Center Thursday evening, June 20th. There is a need for donations (food or funds), and for several volunteers for preparations, serving the meal & interaction with youth for about 1-1.5 hrs. Contact Bob Saylor, 704-239-7342 or bchs3201@aol.com. Love Wins...

LET'S GET W.I.S.E. TOGETHER! JUNE 23, 12:30 CONFERENCE ROOM

Join us for an exploratory meeting to consider ways to better support those with mental health issues in our congregation and our community. The UCC has developed a program called **WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged)** that helps congregations identify and take practical steps to address these concerns. We hope to have a diversity of voices as we consider this important ministry need. Contact Meg Houlihan, 704-957-8738 or megmhoulihan@gmail.com for more information. All are welcome to attend these meetings.

PERSONALIZED BRICKS ORDER TO BE PLACED IN JUNE

All friends and family of Holy Covenant UCC are invited to purchase personalized pavers to honor a loved one, commemorate a special date, or offer a memorial gift to the memory of someone important in your life. Bricks will be placed in the walkway leading to our labyrinth and will remind all who spend time here of your connection and support of Holy Covenant. Pick up and order form in the gathering room. We will place an order by the end of June and we request that a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to Holy Covenant be made with each brick purchase. Net proceeds are used to defray costs of our memorial garden maintenance. Questions? Contact Debbie, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com.

MIGRANT BUS MINISTRY

The Charlotte Greyhound Migrant Assistance Project has coordinated greeters for the buses in order to provide much needed travel essentials for the Central American Migrants. Smaller adult size and all children's sizes of socks and underwear, juice boxes and water, toiletries and diapers. A collection box is available in the Gathering Room. Contact Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com, with questions or to participate in this welcoming.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us at 9:45 in the Conference Room. All are welcome and no preparation is necessary.

BOOK CLUB

Join us June 12th, the selected reading is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, discussion leader is Barbara Schneller. We gather at SouthPark Christian Church at 10:30 AM, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP - KEEP IT SIMPLE!

You can use the link below to sign up, and you can still sign up on paper if you prefer. <https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks2019>

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: Jim Hong, Gregg Walker

Greeters: Eileen Howe, Vondalyn McQueen-Simmons

Ushers: Kevin Edwards Knight, Bob Saylor, Jim Hong

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Joy Decker, JoAnn Jellison

Refreshments: Bill Tyler, Kim Tyler

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Please remember Karen Courts and Mary Misciagna in the death of Karen's father. Cards can be sent to 321 Cove Creek Loop, Mooresville NC 28117
Gail & Danny Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

Ernestine "Tinnie" Chrismon in the death of her husband, Donnie Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyons (Melissa Noll), Amy Madden (Robert Shepherd), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), David Owens (Donna Collins), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Chris Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor pastor@holycovenantucc.org

Rev. Fred Robinson, Associate Pastor fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Shea Watts, Director of Music Ministries music@holycovenantucc.org

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant office@holycovenantucc.org

Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accompanist kathleenie53@msn.com

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