



Silent Meditation

**Our greatest problem is not how to continue
but how to exalt our existence.**

~ Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

O God, we thank you for the lives of great saints and prophets in the past, who have revealed to us that we can stand up amid the problems and difficulties and trials of life and not give in. We thank you for our foreparents, who've given us something in the midst of the darkness of exploitation and oppression to keep going. Grant that we will go on with the proper faith and the proper determination of will, so that we will be able to make a creative contribution to this world. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen

~ **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 3, 2019

Prelude

Jon Weddell

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

Jon Weddell

* Call to Worship

Ed Vickery

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

Ed Vickery

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 φ 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!

“Ain’t No Grave”

Music Cooperative

O, my Lord, it's a winding road
And my heart aches from a heavy load.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
But ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

O, my Lord, I can barely sing
Waiting for You and Your reckoning.
I feel the weight beneath the ground.
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

Chorus: I will rise! I will rise! (2x)
Trouble comes for everyone;
Death has no respect for love.
Roll that stone I won't be found;
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down.

Lord, I'm crooked from head to toe
And whether death takes me fast or slow
You'll raise me then and you you'll raise me now!
Ain't no grave gonna hold me down! *(Chorus)*

Oh my Lord, I can barely see
Through this fog pressing in on me.
Angels humming, can you hear the sound?
Ain't no grave gonna HOLD ME DOWN. *(Chorus)*

Children's Message

Fred Robinson

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

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: Budd and Sandra Blume and Gail Bushman. 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.

Many: At the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember them.

One: In this year which marks the 400th anniversary of the first Africans brought to our shores in chains we pray for and remember:

Many: The more than 15 million children of God who in this nation and in others were kidnapped and sold into enslavement in this and other lands. We remember the millions of Africans who died during the Middle Passage and their descendants who were separated from their families during enslavement, renamed, branded, tortured, maimed, raped, and killed; at the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember them.

One: We remember their descendants who have born the weight of sharecropping and convict leasing; terrorism in its many forms, including lynchings and the Jim Crow laws denying basic human rights, segregation and repeated attempts at disenfranchisement, profiling and mass incarceration, and the vast inequities in educational, economic, social and political opportunity.

Many: We pray for and honor the ancestors who endured discrimination and these injuries as they gather around us. At the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember and pray for all those who today bear the collective trauma of four hundred years with grace, power and dignity.

One: At the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember and rejoice in the beauty and brilliance of all the children of God who descend from those brought here in violence.

Many: We pray for God's grace to give us the strength, determination and courage to speak the truths of our past, to repair the breach and heal the wounds that live into the present, to acknowledge the humanity of all people, and together to create a future of equity, justice and love for all God's children.

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.

Hymn

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

SPIRITUAL

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home (2x)

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
Coming for to carry me home
A band of angels coming after me
Coming for to carry me home (Chorus)

If I get there before you do
Coming for to carry me home
Tell of my friends that I'm a coming too
Coming for to carry me home (Chorus)

“Everyday Psalms” paraphrased by Jim Taylor

Above all wonders of nature rises the miracle of friendship;
 A mother and her baby bond for life;
 friends risk their lives for each other;
 even among thieves there is honor.
 Stars and nebulas are far away, but friends are near at hand.
 Friendship flowers unpredictably;
 the desert blossoms, the ice melts, the distance disappears.
 Friendship has no parallel anywhere else in the world.
 Envy and jealousy dissolve; fear and suspicion evaporate.
 This is how God meant the world to be.
 Nothing else compares with the wonder of friendship.
 It is not possible with a pet,
 Nor with the beasts of the field, the creatures of the forests,
 with the fish of the sea, or the birds of the air.
 Oh, Living God, our Holy One, what a glorious gift you have given!
 One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
 Many: **Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.**

Special Music

“I Remember, I Believe”

Bernice J. Reagon

Melissa McQueen, Felicia Robinson, vocals, Jon Weddell, piano

* Gospel Lesson

Luke 6:20-31

Fred Robinson

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who

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

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.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response

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 ever more.

Postlude

Jon Weddell

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.

ATTENTION SINGERS! ADVENT REHEARSAL TODAY, 12:30- 2PM

W.I.S.E. MEETING WILL NOT MEET IN NOVEMBER.

Meg Houlihan will be in touch for a convenient December gathering. All are welcome; megmhoulihan@gmail.com or 704-957-8738.

WILL YOU WALK WITH US ON THE WAY?

We are grateful for all who have already generously pledged towards our 2020 Stewardship campaign. 2020 Pledges received are currently 71% of our General Fund (church ministries and operating expenses) pledge goal and 74% of our Building (Capital Fund towards paying our mortgage) pledge goal. We prayerfully request and need all 2020 pledges sent in no later than next Tuesday, November 5 so that our Budget team and Consistory can make spending cuts to our 2020 ministries and spending

plan if necessary. Our proposed spending plan will be presented at our annual meeting on November 17 for congregational discussion and vote. Place your commitment card in the offering plate or email your pledge to office@holycovenantucc.org.

TIME OUT YOUTH MEAL, NOVEMBER 14

We are serving a family style dinner at the Time Out Youth Center Thursday evening, November 14th. 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. Your support is greatly appreciated! Contact Bob Saylor, 704-239-7342 or bchs3201@aol.com

ANNUAL MEETING, SOUP & PIES! NOVEMBER 17

Our 2019 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 Cheryl Milam**, docmilam@hotmail.com or 980-521-0848. Please bring the pie of your choice. Soup and beverages will be provided.

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

Elder for November: Tom Magraw, tmagraw@aol.com or 704-614-5405

Deacons for November: Cheryl Milam, Cheri Dennis

Greeters: Shirley Moder, Von McQueen-Simmons

Ushers: JP Griffin, Jill Gregg, Laurence Winston, Barb Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Eileen Howe, JoAnn Jellison

Refreshments: Rebecca MacNair-Semands

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Bruce & Melissa Noll, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Deb & Yvette Ross, Mamie Stokes

Friends & Family Members

The family of Scott Gleditsch (Barb Schneller)

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Andrew Bomely (Martha Bomely), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Jennifer Edenfield (Donna Collins), Alma Gordon (Kevin & Joy Decker), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Faye Grumbles (Linda Clark), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Marilyn Lafferty (Kim Tyler), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Carolyn Marshall (Linda Clark), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jack Ross (Anne Findlay-Chamberlain), Rev. Jeanette Salley (JoAnn Jellison), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Deborah Selma (Kathleen Wagner), Irene Sharpe (Robert Shepherd), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), John Teague (Donna Collins), Dorothy Underwood (Keith & Cheri Dennis), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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