



Silent Reflection

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough, and more.

It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order,
confusion to clarity.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today,
and creates a vision for tomorrow.

~Melody Beattie

We cannot have room for God

if we do not have room for our neighbor....

Find space for spontaneity and a generous response.

Find a place to welcome the stranger

and to throw back your head and laugh with God.

~ Thomas Hoffman

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

July 10, 2016

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome & 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.)*

* Invocation (*Unison*)

Nancy Ellett Allison

God of compassion and love, we gather in grief. But we do not grieve as those who have no hope for we are a people of resurrection. We gather in community. We give you thanks for neighbors, for those who need our support and comfort, and for those who help us when we are lost or in pain. We gather in love. Determined that hate will not rule the day, we affirm our calling to love even those who would do us harm. We gather in memory. Remembering the victims of gun violence, the injured, their families and communities. We gather in worship. We worship the God revealed in Jesus Christ who came that we all might have life, and have it more abundantly. As we gather in this day, may our gratitude for every new God-given morning, for people who love us, for joy in our service to you, be made real. Bless our time together, our words, our songs, our prayers. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Nancy Ellett Allison

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.

** Rise as able φ Sing Response ✠ Hymnals located below pews*

Every new morning, God gives freely
Hearts that are thankful, strength for the task,
People who love us, joy in our service,
All we have need of, if we but ask.

Why spend your living on what can't feed you?
Why labor long and not satisfy?
Listen to me, child, let my words guide you,
And you'll be feasting, full of good life.

“Instrument”

Where there is hatred Lord, let me sow your love
Where there's injury, let forgiveness be enough
Are we giving up, fighting the good fight
Where there is despair, just a flicker in the flame
Could break the veil of night

*Refrain: Creator God and Son
O, Holy Spirit, three in One
I offer you myself, though I'm broken and spent
Let me be Your instrument*

May I never seek, to be consoled as to console
May I understand, to be loved is to love, to be loved is to love
Let there be peace, pardoned in the pardoning
Born again when we die, You have raised us to new life

“God Loves Everyone”

**God is not a man, God is not a white man
God is not a man sitting on a cloud.
God cannot be bought, God will not be boxed in
God will not be owned by religion.**

Chorus I: But God is love, God is love, and God loves everyone

**God is not a man, God is not an old man
God does not belong to politicians.
God is not a flag, not even American
And God does not depend on a government.**

Chorus II: But God is good, God is good, and God loves everyone

***Bridge: Far-right wing or Communist, gay or straight or lesbian
Even the most prejudiced, O God so loves us all
Catholic or Protestant, Terrorist or President
Everybody, everybody, love, love, love, love, love, love. Chorus I***

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.)***

*** Gospel Reading**

Luke 10:25-37

Terry Raley-Dennis

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ The lawyer answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, the lawyer asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on

the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' The lawyer said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Ministry in Mission

"Room in the Inn"

Terry Raley-Dennis

Mission Response

"Multiplied"

N. and W. Rinehart

Jared Fischer, piano; Robbie Furr vocals

Your love is like radiant diamonds
Bursting inside us we cannot contain
Your love will surely come find us
Like blazing wild fires singing Your name

God of mercy sweet love of mine
I have surrendered to Your design
May this offering stretch across the skies
And these Halleluiahs be multiplied

Our Time of Prayer Together

Nancy Ellett Allison

Silent Prayer "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace."

Pastoral Prayer

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:1-14

Sally McLester

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the God, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Thanking God" Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Invitation Sally McLester

Offertory Music Jared Fischer

* Offertory Dedication Sally McLester

* Offering Response 55 MARION

ϕ 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!

* Hymn "Every New Morning" BUNNESAN

God will be with us, in all our thinking,
In all our speaking, in all we do;
And as we praise God, by all our actions,
God will be with us, seeing us through.

God in the morning, God in the noontide,
God in the evening, all through the day;
God is within us, and all around us,
God goes before us, all of the way.

* Benediction Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude Jared Fischer

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. We are an Open and Affirming, progressive Christian church welcoming all.

SPECIAL OFFERING, CHRISTMAS IN JULY

On July 31, 2016, we will receive the UCC Christmas Fund offering to show appreciation for the many pastors who have helped carry our burdens. Many of these aging and retired pastors have served small churches in rural areas that simply do not have the means to financially support them once they retire. These dedicated men and women served selflessly, and we have a chance to give them the thanks they deserve. This is the one time we are asked to match our appreciation with our resources for those who have retired from faithful service to the church. Please memo your offering "UCC Christmas Fund".

GUEST PREACHER, JULY 17, REV. DR. PAUL HANNEMAN

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Hanneman will be our guest preacher on July 17 for the last of Nancy's sabbatical absences. Paul graduated from Kalamazoo College (B.A.), Colgate Rochester Divinity School (M.Div.), and the Graduate Theological Foundation (D.Min.) Paul has recently retired as Program Director for the Urban Ministry Center and is now working with St. Peter Episcopal Church teaching the Enneagram and spiritual formation.

NEW MEMBER & INQUIRERS CLASSES

Would you like to learn more about Holy Covenant and the United Church of Christ? Come to these inquirers classes held in the conference room:

July 24 - 9:30 Who We Are, What We Believe

July 31 - 9:30 UCC/Holy Covenant History

August 7 - 12:30 Elder Lunch and Member Opportunities for Involvement

August 14 - Welcome Sunday

Contact the office for more information or to RSVP.

YOGA WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM

David Smith is leading yoga classes for all levels. For more information, contact David at prizmsongs@gmail.com or 704-533-2142.

BOOK CLUB JULY 11, 1:30 PM

We will be meeting on Monday, July 11, at 1:30 pm at the Sharon campus. Our new title is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, an engaging and quick read! Barbara Schneller will be leading the discussion.

SOJOURNERS CLASS

The Sojourners class continues its discussion of *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help*. No preparation need. Join us, won't you?

2016 PRIDE FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Charlotte PRIDE, the third-largest LGBTQ Pride organization in the American Southeast, will hold its annual festival August 19, 20 & 21. We need all members of Holy Covenant to volunteer in helping Holy Covenant be present throughout the weekend. Please contact Phil Kaveler, pwkaveler@yahoo.com, to let him know when you can volunteer. There will be a sign up sheet beginning July 10 in the Gathering Room.

ALL CHURCH CENTENNIAL COOK BOOK

We KNOW most of you don't cook all that much - but we also KNOW that some of you make great cakes, some of you specialize in all vegetarian dishes and some of you are Crock Pot Queens! Please submit any tried and true favorite recipe, of any food category, by **July 15**. Send your recipe to Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, Judi Lord, jklord17@gmail.com or Linda Carver, 2547A Stockbridge Drive, Charlotte NC 28210.

JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP

It's not too late to register for summer camps at Johns River Valley Camp. If you know a rising 3rd grader, you should make them aware of this narrow window to experience a sampling of Johns River Valley Camp. Campers enjoy a half week of traditional camp activities (crafts, aquatics, hikes, stories, games, vespers, campfires) under the direction of two superb leaders, Sue Howell (Warwick UCC) and Rev. Jim Humphrey (retired). In addition to above highlighted activities, campers will explore implications of "Fearless Faith: Courage in Community." On-line Registration available for all JRVC summer camps, jrvc.org.

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

Elder of the Month: Michael Baldonado

Greeters: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Sue Godfrey, Tom Magraw, Barbara Rutelonis

Tabulators: Sally McLester, Kathi Smith

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Paul Bomely, Gail Bushman, Leanne Bushman, Ginny & Bob Fisher,
Marianne Gannon, Karen Griffin, Chuck Johnson, Helen Lambert, Irene
Mikkelson, Deb & Yvette Ross, Dave Stoimenoff & Jim Germann,
Mamie Stokes, Jean Washburn

Friends & Family Members

McKenzie (Sue Godfrey), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Charlotte
Carbone, Matthew Christian, (Beth Sharp), Bill Funderburk (Donna Collins),
Frances Helms (Lynn Helms), Mike Hinson (Kathi Smith), CD & Alice
Huskins (Jared Fischer), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson
(Joy Johnson), Barbara Lees (Donna Collins), Urban Linn (Julie
McLelland), Pat & JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey),
Candy Propes (Sue Rettberg), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial)

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.

***Celebrating a Century of Transforming Faith
First Reformed 1916 ~ Holy Covenant 2016***

Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

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

Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director

Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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