



Prayer

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

~ Mary Oliver

Prayer is as simple as sitting quietly and listening.

~Kerry Nelson

Prayer is yearning, beseeching, and beholding.

~Julian of Norwich

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

July 24, 2016

Gathering Music

Kathleen Smith

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.)*

ABBA, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

* Invocation (*Unison*)

Nancy Ellett Allison

Generous God of every blessing, faithful Creator of all that we know, we come together on this day of rest to worship with each other in your presence. We bring our weariness, our longing for peace and justice, a simple day free from pain and worry. We come because we are your people, we come for strength for the journey. Carry us into the ocean of your love O Holy River of Life, so that we may absorb your strength, your grace, your beauty, your wholeness. Amen.

Breath Prayer

Living God, help me feel your love.

Holy One, draw me close to you.

* *Rise as able* ☩ *Sing Response* ✕ *Hymnals located below pews*

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a-new;
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

YOUR KIN'DOM COME

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.)

Psalm Paraphrase

Psalm 85

Susan Rettberg

paraphrased by Jim Taylor

I am truly fortunate.

I made mistakes, but you did not penalize me for them.

Thank you, God.

I believe in you again.

In the depths of the storm, I doubted you.

I doubted me.

I doubted everything.

I despaired.

I thought I would die.

But you saved me, in spite of my stupidity.

The storm is over now.

Clear skies stretch ahead of me;

warm winds press me on,

like a helping hand in the small of my back.

Indeed, you are good to me.

One day like this makes my misery tolerable.

Thank you, God.

I am no longer at the mercy of the elements.

I can set a safe course to my destination,
following your directions.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

* Passing of the Peace

Susan Rettberg

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.**

* Hymns of Joy

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

TRADITIONAL AM.

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul,
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean...

I've got joy like a fountain...

“Let All Creation Sing Alleluia” GOD, THE CREATOR
(*Caller sings light print, congregation sings bold.*)

Refrain: Let all creation ***Let all cre-a-tion***
Sing alleluia! ***Sing al-le-lu-ia!***
In one heart and voice let all crea-tures re-joice in God!

1. To you, O God, all crea-tures sing,
To you O God all crea-tures sing,
Let all the vaults of heav’n now ring!
Let all the vaults of heav’n now ring!
O burn-ing sun with gold-en beam,
O burn-ing sun with gold-en beam,
And sil-ver moon with sof-ter gleam!
And sil-ver moon with sof-ter gleam! (refrain)

2. O rushing wind and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds a-loft,

3. O flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear.
Fire so mas-ter-ful and bright,
Pro-vi-ding us with warmth and light! (*refrain*)

4. O ev’ry-one of tender heart,
For-giv-ing others, take your part.

5. Let all things their Cre-a-tor bless
And worship God in hum-ble-ness.
Praise Cre-a-tor, praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit, Three-in-One! (*refrain*)

GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Ministry in Mission

Lisa Cloninger

Response

“Shine, Lord”

words and music by Anne E. DeChant

☉ Shine, Lord, O shine, Lord, and light the weary world.
Show us your kindness, your peace and love unfurled.
With arms open wide you will teach us to abide.
Shine, Lord, O shine, Lord, and light the weary world.

Offertory Invitation

Alix Felsing

Offertory Music

“Peace Medley”

Kathleen Smith

* Offering Response 55

MARION

☉ 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!

* Offertory Dedication

Alix Felsing

* Gospel Reading

Luke 11:1-13

Alix Felsing

(Jesus) was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples. He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Abba, hallowed be your name.

Your kin’dom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.’

Then Jesus said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.” And he answers from within, “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.” I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him

anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

‘So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Reflection “The Grace and Challenge of Prayer” Nancy Ellett Allison

AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, FOR WE OURSELVES FORGIVE EVERYONE INDEBTED TO US

Our Time of Prayer Together Nancy Ellett Allison

One: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near me, I release anything I hold against you; I regret all I have done to harm you; I stand beside the wrong in my life and ask God’s forgiveness.

Many: As our sins are cast away, releasing their hold over our lives, before God and you who are near, we release anything we hold against one another; we regret all the harm we have done; we stand beside the wrong in our lives and ask God’s forgiveness.

One: Jesus says to us, each one: “Go and sin no more, come and follow me.”

Now bind our hands with honesty as we offer them to each other and our prayer to God: Abba, hallowed be your name. Your kin’dom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial. Amen.

Musical Reflection

Bridget Green, Flute, Kathleen Smith, piano

AND DO NOT BRING US TO THE TIME OF TRIAL

Prayers in Times of Challenge

* Hymn 588

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

ST. THOMAS

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”
by Jill Jackson Miller

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

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.

SHARON ROAD PROPERTY UPDATE

The work to sell the Sharon Road property continues. We are still under contract with NVR, parent company to Ryan Homes, who submitted their rezoning petition last week. Based on two community meetings and feedback from the City Council, the maximum number of units that will be allowed is 24 units on the property. Due to this, the Consistory agreed to extend the study period to allow more community alignment, and to lower our price from \$2.1 million to \$1.8 million. A final community meeting will take place in the next few weeks and the vote of City Council is expected in coming months. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Renee Brown at 704-996-5378.

SPECIAL OFFERING, CHRISTMAS IN JULY

On July 31, 2016, we will receive the UCC Christmas Fund offering to show appreciation for the many aging and retired pastors who have served small churches in rural areas and do not have the means to financially support themselves once they retire. 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".

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.

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.

SOJOURNERS CLASS

Members of the Sojourners adult Sunday school class are enjoying some lively discussions of Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton. Please join us as we discuss Chapter 4, "Needs vs. Relationships", on Sunday, July 24--no preparation necessary.

REPORT ON PLEDGED GIVING UPDATE FOR JUNE

June YTD General Fund giving is \$75,482.00, or 47%, of the total year pledged, and the Building Fund giving is \$53,050, or 47% of total year Building Fund pledges. Each financial gift is vital to the work of the church and we appreciate your continued giving, especially while traveling during summer vacation months.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

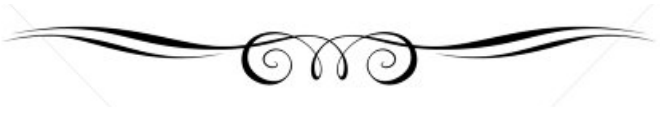
All recorded giving statements ending the 2nd Quarter of 2016 have been now been distributed. If you haven't received one, or have a question about your recorded offerings, please contact Dawn Simmons in the office.



LAST CALL - ALL CHURCH CENTENNIAL COOK BOOK

Please submit any tried and true favorite recipe, NOW.

Send your recipe to Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, Judi Lord, jklord17@gmail.com or Linda Carver, 2547A Stockbridge Drive, Charlotte NC 28210.



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

Elder of the Month: Michael Baldonado

Greeters: Judi Lord, Suzanne Lamorey

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Joe Craig, Peter Jawidzik, Sue Lamorey, Alice Phelan

Tabulators: Tina Dickens, Sally Duffy

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Paul Bomely, Gail Bushman, Leanne Bushman,
Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Karen Griffin, Laura Hankins,
Chuck Johnson, Joy Johnson, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson,
John Rapp, Deb & Yvette Ross, Dave Stoimenoff & Jim Germann,
Mamie Stokes, Sheryl Stogner, Jean Washburn
Diane & Steve Garvey in the death of Diane's sister, Loretta Giardino

Friends & Family Members

McKinzie (Sue Godfrey), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze),
Charlotte Carbone, Bill Funderburk, Jonathan Funderburk (Donna Collins),
Frances Helms (Lynn Helms), Mike Hinson (Kathi Smith),
John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson),
Barbara Lees (Donna Collins), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland),
Pat & JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey),
Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Charles Weaver (Susan Rettberg)

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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