



Silent Reflection

When I was younger, I worried a great deal about whether or not I was going to make it home to God.... What I fear now is that I will somehow miss what it is that I am supposed to learn here, something important enough that the Dreamer dispatched me, and the rest of us, here to learn. What I fear now is that I will somehow miss the point of living here at all, living here between the dreaming and the coming true.

~ Robert Benson

“The great novelist E.L. Doctorow once said that writing a novel is like driving at night with the headlights on. You can see only a little way in front of you, but you can make the whole journey this way. It is the truest of all things, the only way to write a book, raise a child, save the world.”

~Anne Lamott

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 31, 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*)

Steven Burleson

O Holy God of this hot time of growth, source of lazy days and sudden storms, maker of warbling birds and long-winded politicians, we come together to remind ourselves that all of this is your creation. The muggy heat, the quiet streets, the traveling friends help us recall that summer is a season rather than forever. We give thanks for the different rhythm of these days and the wonder of your vast and varied creation as we gather in gratitude for all the days and ways we live in your love. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Steven Burleson

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 ☩ Sing Response ✕ Hymnals located below pews*

* Hymn

“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

Oh praise God, Halleluiah

I offer you myself, though I'm broken and spent

Let me be Your instrument

Let there be peace, pardoned in the pardoning

Born again when we die, You have raised us to new life

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy unchanging love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above!

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

"The Love of Jesus"

J. Wicker & A. Lewis

Robbie Furr, vocals, Kathleen Smith, piano

* Gospel Reading

Luke 11:13-23, 30-31

Faye Humphrey

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But Jesus said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing...For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and God knows that you need them. Instead, strive for the reign of God and these things will be given to you as well.'

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Ministry in Mission

Faye Humphrey

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.

Our Time of Prayer Together

Nancy Ellett Allison

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:1-11

Steven Burleson

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Nancy Ellett Allison

“Between the Dreaming and the Coming True”

Offertory Invitation

Steven Burleson

Offertory Music

* 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

Steven Burleson

* Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O God of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
Guide me with thy hand when sight is obscured.
Father and Mother, Thy child may I be,
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High God of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

* 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.

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 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.

SPECIAL OFFERING, CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Today, 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".

GOODIES FOR GUATEMALA TODAY

You probably already know about our upcoming cookbook - and that sales will contribute to our Guatemala Fund for a mission trip next year...but there's MORE! The last Sunday of each month there will be a table in the gathering room offering baked goods for donations to help our Guatemala Fund. Look for these goodies today after worship and next month, too!

REUSE A SNEAKER - DONATE THOSE OLD STINKY THINGS!

The Earth Care team announces Reuse a Sneaker drive. The project, with collections of any brand sneakers that have reached the end of their useful life, recycles and transforms them into *Nike Grind*, a material used in creating athletic and playground surfaces, as well as select Nike

products. As you prepare for the beginning of school and fall cleaning consider a new life for your old gym shoes. Drop off your old *tennies*, August 7 to September 11, in the collection bin in the gathering room. (Regular shoes are not included in this project.)

WELCOME BABY MATTHEW, AUGUST 14

Please join us to celebrate and welcome baby Matthew Burleson, in an all church baby shower following worship. Reception hosted by the Hospitality Committee. Registry at Target, Babies-R-Us, or gift cards are welcomed.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE'S ANNUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE, AUGUST 14

Where all are welcome. An interfaith experience celebrating the dignity, value and worth of all people. Sunday, August 14, 4 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St., Charlotte. Refreshments following the Service For more information: charlottepride.org.

2016 PRIDE FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Charlotte PRIDE, annual festival August 19, 20 & 21. We volunteers from Holy Covenant be present throughout the weekend. Please sign up in the gathering room or contact Phil Kaveler, pwkaveler@yahoo.com.

BOOK CLUB

Please join us at the Sharon Campus on August 22 for a discussion lead by Sue Pascucci of the book "Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman. For our September 19th meeting, we have tentatively selected William Kent Kruger's "Ordinary Grace"; discussion lead by Barbara Schneller.

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.

PLEDGED GIVING UPDATE

June YTD General Fund pledged giving is \$75,482.00, or 47%, of the total year pledged, and the Building Fund pledged 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 so much everyone's continued faithful giving, especially while traveling during summer vacation months.

BANK AUTO DRAFT

Simplify your giving and utilize your bank's auto draft process for easy, and most often free, giving options. When signing up, you may use our secure post office address for the check to be mailed to at: Holy Covenant UCC, PO Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269. Questions? Please contact Dawn in the office, or Diane Neese, Treasurer at dianeneese@gmail.com.

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 August 3rd and the vote of City Council is expected in coming months. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Renee Brown at 704-996-5378.

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

Elder of the Month: Michael Baldonado

Greeters: Barb Schneller, Lisa Sherman

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Youth

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley-Dennis

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

Friends & Family Members

McKinzie (Sue Godfrey), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze),
Charlotte Carbone, Bill Funderburk, Jonathan Funderburk (Donna Collins),
Charles Haag (Marylou Iantosca), 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),
Milton & Jane Thompson (Kevin Decker), 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 Burlison, Youth & Young Adult 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