



“I am the bread of life,” says Jesus in the first of a series of eight so-called “I am ...” passages in John’s gospel. And the bread of life was precisely what Father Jacques believed himself to be distributing that morning on the outskirts of Rouen.

~ Giles Frasier

The Eucharist is “the sacrifice of the cross perpetuated down the age. This sacrifice is so decisive for the salvation of the human race that Jesus Christ ... left us a means of sharing in it as if we had been present there”.

~ Pope John Paul II

“What people don’t realize is how much religion costs. They think faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross. It is much harder to believe than not to believe.”

~ Flannery O’Conner

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

August 7, 2016

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

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

Jared Fischer

* Invocation (*Unison*)

Meg Houlihan

Surprising God of beauty and mercy we give thanks for things seen: for stars and heavens, for sand and seashore, for sunsets and waterfalls, for children and campers, for squash casseroles and peach pies. We give thanks for things hoped for, for things not seen: mercy and kindness, music and laughter, atoms and energy, graciousness and forgiveness, faith and healing. May your beauty shine through all, may your mercy bring us into your presence as we gather to worship. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Meg Houlihan

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.**

All rise in body or spirit ☩ Sing Response ✠ Hymnals located below pews

1. My hope is built on noth-ing less
than Je-sus' love and righ-teous-ness;
I dare not trust this earth-ly frame,
but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand;
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand,
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

2. When shad-ows veil my Sav-ior's face,
I rest up-on un-chang-ing grace;
In ev-ery high and storm-y gale,
my an-chor holds with-in the veil. *Refrain:*

3. Christ's oath and cov-e-nant and blood sup-
port me in the ris-ing flood;
When all a-round my soul gives way,
Christ then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain:*

4. When Christ shall come with trum-pet
sound, oh, may I then in Love be found,
Dressed in God's righ-teous-ness a-lone,
fault-less to stand be-fore the throne. *Refrain.*

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.)

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Tina Ettesen

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible....

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Our Time of Prayer Together

Nancy Ellett Allison

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* One: We invite all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. As we join together in Holy Communion we invite all to confess together our faith as Christians.

* **UCC Statement of Faith**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified
and risen Savior,

you have come to us

and shared our common lot,

conquering sin and death

and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

One: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new, we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

Many: Loving and gracious God, who summons galaxies into being, we give thanks and blessing to you. We give you thanks for all humanity with our complexity of colors and cultures all called into oneness-of-being through Christ. We come to this table, sisters and brothers, united in spirit, yet as we are, so that Christ may be known to each of us in the breaking of the bread.

One: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take, eat: This is my body, broken for you." In like manner, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins." We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe:

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

Many: Amen.

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

*(Please come forward as directed by the ushers for
the Sharing of the Elements.)*

Music during Communion “Your Love Remains”

Through the darkness, through the fire, through my fleeting heart's
desire

Your love remains, Your love remains.

Though I wonder far away, squander all Your freedom gave,
Your love remains, Your love remains.

*O my, my soul, it cries,
Your swift hand, swiftly replies
To rescue me, you rescue me.*

In green pastured hills you lead, then by waters still, your keep,
Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

When my enemies surround, still your table there abounds,
My cup is filled, my cup is filled.

*Though I walk Death's dark valley,
There Your strong hands uphold me,
I fear no evil, You are with me.*

Surely goodness, surely mercy, surely kindness all my days
Will follow me, will follow me.

In Your house I'll ever dwell and everywhere, and ever still,
Your love remains, Your love remains.

*O my soul, Your praises cries,
O my soul, Your praise it cries,
My soul it cries, My soul it cries out*

“Jesus Gave It All”

**I hear the Savior say, thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in Me Thine all in all.**

Refrain: **Jesus gave it all, all to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.**

**Jesus, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone.**

Refrain

**And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,
"Christ's great love my soul did save" my lips shall still repeat.**

Refrain

All: We give thanks, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us at Your table by giving us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace. Amen.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

φ **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

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. Please join us in the Gathering Room after worship for fellowship and refreshments.

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:

August 7 - 12:30 Elder Lunch and Member Opportunities for Involvement
August 14 - Welcome Sunday

Contact the office for more information or to RSVP.

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 EVENTS

DEALING WITH CONFRONTATIONAL BEHAVIOR

We are hosting a meeting with a Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Officer on **August 14 at 1 pm** in the Conference Room to explore ways to effectively de-escalate tense conversations. If you have concerns about dealing with confrontational behavior, please make plans to attend. We are hosting this specifically for those who will be working in the booths at the Pride Festival, but these are skills that each of our ushers and greeters and any of you who deal with the public might value.

INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

An interfaith worship 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.

2016 PRIDE FESTIVAL AUGUST 19, 20 & 21

Holy Covenant, along with 3 churches, will be present throughout the weekend to be a show of community support from Charlotte Area UCC churches. Thank you to all who have volunteered.

Participants are needed for each of the following times: Saturday, 8/20, 8-9 am for set up of the church booth, and 7-8 pm; Sunday 8/21, 5-6 pm and for assistance with tear down, 6-7 pm. Contact Phil Kaveler, or sign up in the gathering room this Sunday.

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.

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

Elder of the Month: Tina Ettesen

Greeters: Susan Godfrey, Susan Rettberg

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barb Schneller, Moses Taylor

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Julie Klever

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Gail Bushman, Leanne Bushman, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Karen Griffin, Laura Hankins, Chuck Johnson, Joy Johnson, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelsen, John Rapp, Deb & Yvette Ross, Ed Sharp, Dave Stoimenoff & Jim Germann, Mamie Stokes, Sheryl Stogner
The Family of Paul Bomely. The family of 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)

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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